



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association of 27 Municipalities



February 23, 2023

HB106 – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Environment & Transportation Committee

POSITION: Support

Dear Chairman Barve & Members of the Committee,

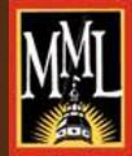
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of House Bill 106 sponsored by Delegate Nicole Williams, and cross-filed in the Senate as SB50, State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System. We write on behalf of the 27 municipalities that make up the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which collectively represents more than 955,000 residents, to share our strong support of this bill.

Our municipalities continue to share concerns with the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation System (SCMaglev) around the use of state funding for this effort. It is critical to our collective responsibility as elected officials to implement safeguards to protect Maryland taxpayers from unknown and unnecessary financial risks associated with this project. This is exactly what we are seeking by supporting HB106. If the SCMaglev does manage to proceed forward, we are asking for your support with ensuring Maryland residents and taxpayers are never financially responsible for any costs associated with the development, operations and maintenance of the SCMaglev. The project developer, Northeast Maglev, has communicated publicly in a variety of forums that this project will be privately funded and not rely on government funding. In addition, there needs to be additional evaluation on the equity of this and future projects as it relates to service, including stops in Prince George's County, and impacts including environmental concerns.



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PGCMA is asking you to help ensure the project developer keeps their word by moving this bill forward during the current legislative session. We want to thank each member of the committee for the opportunity to hear our position on this matter. We also want to applaud Delegate Williams for seeking to codify this financial protection for Marylanders to ensure we are not left with the bill for this project at any time in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Patrick Wojahn". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Patrick Wojahn

PGCMA President

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