

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
MD General Assembly  
Room 251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
MD General Assembly  
Room 121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Barve, Chair Barnes, and Members of the House Environment & Transportation and Appropriations Committees,

My name is Danny Mackey and I am here to request that you give HB106 an unfavorable report. Proponents of this legislation engage in a proxy argument surrounding various aspects of Maglev trains, but this legislation has nothing to do with the merits of a Maglev train in Maryland – this legislation seeks only to shackle tomorrow’s leaders to the wishes of those in office today. The only Maglev project in development in Maryland is a private entity seeking no State funds. If any future request for State funding should arise whether to allocate funds is a debate that should occur and a decision that should be made by the officials present at that time through the normal robust appropriations process, not by the leaders of years past. This legislation does nothing more than rob future legislators, Governors, and State Employees of their decision-making authority on how to best operate State Government into the future.

Speaking globally, transportation is a high priority for Marylanders as it is for our newly elected Governor. The opening paragraph of Governor Moore’s transportation issues page reads as follows:

“Maryland has a rich history as a transportation innovator. We were home to America’s first railroad... Maryland has historically recognized the value of transportation, not only as a means of mobility, but as an economic engine and as a vehicle for helping people lift themselves from poverty.”

This legislation signals that Maryland is closed to transportation innovation – it says if you want to solve big problems you should go somewhere else. Why should the home of the first railroad not continue to lead in this field? As we plan Maryland’s transportation future we should not be limiting our options but leaving the future open to a wide array of transportation possibilities that the Governor agrees act as vehicles for economic mobility. There are a lot of questions about how tomorrow’s Marylanders will move. I ask you one question: The Governor’s transportation plan is titled Maryland’s Mobility – Moving into the Future; does this legislation move anything into the future? Thank you.

Daniel Mackey  
daniel.b.mackey@gmail.com  
(443) 980-8040