



TESTIMONY FOR SB0079

State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Bill Sponsor: Senator Washington, A.

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0079 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The MAGLEV project is a very divisive project in our state. It was conceived in much the same way that we have conceived most of our transportation projects in the past decade – with the thought of how the wealthy will benefit and with no thought about the low- to mid- income people who would suffer.

The MAGLEV would tear through already overburdened communities in Prince George’s County and have no real benefit for them. No stops anywhere in the county. This just can’t continue to happen.

This bill prohibits the use of state funds for the MAGLEV. We could not agree more that, in its current form, there should be no money available for it. However, we do not believe in precluding the state from ever having a MAGLEV, so we propose an amendment that if a future MAGLEV project was conceived following proper environmental guidance and environmental justice guidance, the project should be able to move forward with state funding.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.