



Lakeland Community Association Partnership Inc.
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January 17, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB0079 -STATE FINANCE - PROHIBITED
APPROPRIATIONS - MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Feldman, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees,

At Lakeland Community Association Partnership Inc. (LCAP), we have three primary purposes: to promote, preserve, and protect our community. We do this by connecting and engaging with our residents, and also by supporting projects, programs, and activities that inspire growth within the neighborhood. The Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) Superconducting Magnetic Levitation train (SCMAGLEV) is a prime example of an opportunity to improve the quality of life for Lakeland residents. We encourage the project's development, which SB0079 aims to directly negatively impact. **Therefore, we cannot support this bill.**

Aside from the concrete economic and employment opportunities that the project will deliver, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) affirms that the SCMAGLEV will directly benefit the communities surrounding project stations in many more ways. The DEIS states, "Transit-oriented development (TOD)

opportunities around station locations, particularly in Baltimore, would potentially include expanded housing and employment opportunities for residents; increased retail, especially supermarkets; improved vehicular and bicycle safety; - enhanced security, lighting, and wayfinding; and added community amenities (for example, recreation, landscaping, waterfront access)."

Yes, the economic and employment opportunities that the SCMAGLEV will provide are of equal importance to the above, but it's these day-to-day improvements to the overall well-being of South Baltimore communities that make this project all the more promising. SB0079 threatens to not only revoke these concrete opportunities for our communities that are outlined in the DEIS, but this bill also preemptively dampens future innovative ideas.

Moreover, the BWRR team has continually supported our community and have actively collaborated with us on multiple recent community events. I can conclusively state that they are committed to supporting our residents and their needs. As previously stated, our priority is to improve the lives of our Lakeland residents. This project will deliver those improvements. We are eager to welcome the SCMAGLEV to South Baltimore, as it will usher in an era of improved transit and investment in communities that have long been awaiting these opportunities.

Seeing as SB0079 goes against our primary purposes as an organization and community association, we ask that you submit an unfavorable report of this bill.

Sincerely,

Pamela Oliver

Lakeland Community Association Partnership Inc.

"Building a Better Community Together with LOVE"

"Lakeland Community Association Partnership Inc. is a association that has been organized to promote the education of residents and partnership of schools, businesses and churches in the area of crime prevention and quality of life and to assist in the safeguarding of the community, its residents and their properties through voluntary activities including public information problem solving and addressing community problems and concerns."