



January 17, 2024

SB0079

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

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Vice 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,

On behalf of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's hundreds of member businesses and thousands of employees throughout the state, this letter is in opposition to SB0079 - State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System.

As this chamber is well-aware, the state is facing major budget shortfalls that will force leadership to make difficult choices about how to invest in Maryland's future. Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail have never asked the state for funds, meaning this bill addresses a non-existent issue. Why waste the legislature's time focused a on non-issue when there are clearly more pressing matters to attend to?

Furthermore, this legislation has not changed from prior appearances before this committee. Passage of this obstructionist legislation would make a strong statement about Maryland – that State leadership is closed to innovation.

We believe the State and the region should be open to any and all ideas that seek to ameliorate our pressing problem of congestion, which threatens our economy's growth on a daily basis. Large scale investments in our state should be encouraged as they provide substantial jobs and enhancement to the economic health of our business community. We ask you to please vote UNFAVORABLE on this short-sighted bill which reflects the lack of long-range planning for our community's future and that of the State. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marco V. Ávila, P.E." with a blue underline.

Marco V. Ávila, P.E.

Chairman of the Board & President
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
chair@mdhcc.org - 443-519-6909