



**GREATER BALTIMORE BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
(GBBCC)**

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the

House Environment and Transportation Committee:

As a long-standing community partner, the focus of the Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce is on the facilitation and creation of business opportunities and resources for black-owned businesses, fostering business growth that results in increased employment of city residents, reinvestment in, and sustainability of predominantly African American communities - this bill stands in the way of the type of progress we stand for. This bill will limit the State's ability to ever invest in any magnetic levitation transportation technology – not just this project.

As important as the greater Baltimore region is to us, we recognize that a project like this is important to people beyond just the Baltimore area. It represents job opportunities, business

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opportunities, and community growth and development opportunities for millions along the Northeast Corridor. It represents a future with less pollution, traffic, and with an emphasis on clean, efficient transportation and transit-oriented development. We want to be a part of this future. This bill is an attempt to needlessly block a potential for growth and opportunity for so many, and we ask that you submit an unfavorable report. We urge the Maryland Legislature to not set a precedent by using legislation on behalf of a few to unfairly limit a potential good for many.

Sincerely,  
Kendrick Tilghman   
President and CEO  
Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce