



Greater
Baltimore Chapter
601 N. Eutaw Street – Suite 102
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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 HB170 —STATE FINANCE – PROHIBITED
APPROPRIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the National Action Network's Greater Baltimore Chapter, I am writing to express our organization's strong opposition to HB170.

The National Action Network is one of the leading civil rights organizations in the nation. We fight for one standard of justice and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, criminal record, economic status, gender, gender expression, or sexuality.

Not only would the SCMAGLEV project bring unprecedented economic opportunity to our region, but the team behind the project has committed to diverse, equitable and inclusive project development. The team has worked extensively with South Baltimore communities to establish trust-based communication and is committed to facilitating equitable transit-oriented development.

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail, the developer behind the SCMAGLEV, is also committed to bringing \$4 billion in equitable opportunities to minority- and women-owned businesses in the state. This project represents the exact type of opportunity the National Action Network fights for daily. Preemptively removing the ability for Maryland citizens to invest in innovative technology that has the capacity to drastically improve the lives of many sends a clear message to citizens

that their voices, time, energy, and future don't matter.

I strongly urge the committee to consider the long-lasting implications that this bill will have on future technological investment within the state. Not only does this bill represent the dismissal of Maryland voices, but it is also incredibly short-sighted, as it curtails the future of all potential maglev projects.

Furthermore, it is worth repeating that the company behind the SCMAGLEV has pledged to not request appropriations and they haven't received any.

We ask for an unfavorable report on HB170 to keep Maryland's future bright for all of our hardworking citizens.

Sincerely,

LARRY YOUNG
Greater Baltimore Chapter National Action Network