



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

UNFAVORABLE

House Bill 170

Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

House Environment & Transportation Committee

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Dear Chairman Korman and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,800 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and recovery for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 170 would create significant barriers for public and private investment in the construction of a magnetic levitation (Maglev) transportation system connecting Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. The legislation would essentially render any maglev project impossible to construct.

The Chamber believes that improved state transportation networks boost economic opportunity, and we work to advance short- and long-term solutions to statewide transit needs. Mass transportation projects, such as Maglev, create jobs, generate economic activity and transform Maryland into a leader in 21st-century transportation solutions.

Further, increased transit options would dramatically reduce commute times, thereby increasing productivity and unleashing new opportunities for businesses statewide. Enhanced options for Maryland commuters would also lessen the state's carbon footprint by reducing the number of cars on the road.

Finally, HB 170 represents the “slippery slope” of the use of public funds for the state's mass transportation projects. The Chamber is concerned with the potential precedent setting nature of banning the use of public funds for one project versus another.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on HB 170.