

January 24, 2025

SB0055 – UNFAVORABLE TESTIMONY

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

RE: Opposition to SB 0055 State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation
Transportation System

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The Prince George's Contractors and Business Association (PGCBA) has provided strong leadership and advocacy for issues that enhance the opportunity for small, women and minority businesses to exist and grow. PGCBA was established in 1989 and has 35 years of experience in fostering small and medium-sized, women and minority businesses. Our Mission is to assure that the businesses that we represent have a fair, equitable opportunity to create wealth and employ citizens within our communities. This includes access to vehicles that provide capital and resources. This bill is uncalled for and anti-business. Maryland is looking to attract businesses, not limit and punish good corporate partners who have never asked for State funds.


We wish to share with you our support for the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail high-speed rail project that will connect Baltimore to Washington D.C. in 15 minutes and will provide \$4 billion in economic opportunities to minority and women owned businesses.

I have been fortunate to have in-depth conversations with Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail about their plans to develop the MAGLEV system equitably. Making sure that women and people of color have equitable access to the multitude of opportunities associated with this project is crucial to aligning with our state's ambition of building a brighter future for all Marylanders.

BWRR is not asking, and has pledged not to ask, for state funds in developing the project. This means SB0055 is a bad solution to a non-existent problem. Additionally, it sends a frightening message to future generations that we have no qualms making short-sighted decisions before they even have a chance to weigh in, an affront to their autonomy. All Marylanders must have every tool at their disposal to fight the climate crisis and build safe and reliable transportation systems.

I ask that the committee **submit an unfavorable report on this bill.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Gaskins', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Joseph Gaskins
President & Chairman of the Board