



Written Testimony to the Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees

**SB.0055 – State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System
Sponsors: Senators A. Washington, Augustine, and Beidle**

January 29, 2025

Position: Oppose

The GBC's 2022 merger with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore positions our organization to unify business, civic, tech, academic, faith, and nonprofit stakeholders to support bold economic opportunities for the region. Our initiatives—which include elevating the Baltimore Region as one of the premiere innovation hubs in the world—will ensure our communities and economy are at the cutting-edge of transformative technologies that will power the next generation of companies and science.

Transportation innovation is alive and well in America.

States and regions that compete with Maryland for talent and entrepreneurs are hubs for research, development, and piloting of autonomous, electric, and green vehicles, and advanced shuttles and transport systems. These innovative cultures are hubs of new technologies to advance freight, air, port, and train travel. It is a remarkable transformation from a history of innovation that roots back to the first commercial train travel in America, in Maryland.

Accelerator programs for mobility innovation, state-level incentives to advance the creation of new job centers, and high-speed transportation research and development have touched rural states—including our neighbor West Virginia—and served to spark ecosystems of entrepreneurs thinking light-years ahead in the fastest growing technology hubs in the country.

We encourage you to submit an unfavorable report.

It's crucial that our state's public and private sector leaders support a message that we're "open for aspiration" at a time where Maryland is largely missing from the vast community of innovation addressing how we move people and goods and connect communities.

The state has not committed any public investment for technologies to advance magnetic levitation transportation systems, but this is an area of opportunity that is a focus of research and development in the U.S. and abroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Anthony Thomas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Anthony Thomas
President & Chief Executive Officer

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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