

**Date:** January 27, 2025

**Subject:** Written Testimony in Favor of **SB0055** – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System (Cross-file **HB0400**)

**To:** Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

**Description of Bill:**

Senate Bill SB0055 would prohibit Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) from appropriating funds from the state of Maryland to build the proposed SCMaglev transportation system, “providing that the prohibition does not apply to certain expenditures for salaries” of state employees. This exception is in response to Northeast Maglev’s concerns that earlier versions of this bill had unintended consequences in that it would inadvertently tie their hands to work with the appropriate state personnel to acquire permits or other required approvals should the project go forward. By including this provision, the bill should be acceptable to BWRR and the Northeast Maglev.

My name is Laura Bonkosky. I am writing in support of SB0055, sponsored by Senators A. Washington, Augustine, and Beidle

**TESTIMONY:** My concern is that Maryland is facing budget constraints, and any funding earmarked for transit should be spent on a project that has a greater public benefit and is affordable to the average Marylander, and has a minimal environmental impact. The Maglev meets neither of these criteria.

I ask that SB0055 be given a favorable vote and moved out of committee.

Sincerely,

Name Laura Bonkosky

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