

Patriots Technology Training Center 5800 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

January 29, 2025

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair Senate Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401 Senator Brian Feldman, Chair Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee 2 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 55 – <u>UNFAVORABLE</u> – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Feldman and Members of the Committees:

As President of the Patriots Technology Training Center, I am writing to express our organization's strong opposition to SB 55.

For 22 years Patriots' mission has been "empowering students through technology". Our goal is to increase the number of 5th to 12th grade students entering into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), ultimately leading to a college education and career paths in these fields. Our various programs, camps, seminars, and activities serve to introduce youth to tomorrow's careers.

The Northeast Maglev project represents the pinnacle of opportunity for today's youth. The influx of high tech construction and operations jobs, with stations located in Baltimore, DC, and at BWI, will provide tremendous opportunity for our youth - opportunity to be part of the most advanced transportation system in the world. Once the project is complete, ultimately connecting major metropolitan areas of the Northeast Corridor, today's youth will continue to benefit with easy access to opportunities along the entire route.

SB 55 is a clear attempt to stop this project, and in effect stifle opportunity for today's youth and for future generations. Opportunity for careers, economic development, access, and a cleaner environment.

Please submit an unfavorable report on this nearsighted bill.

Sincerely,

Thurman Jones, President Patriots Technology Training Center