



Statement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689

**SB 55– State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System
January 27th, 2025**

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Matthew Girardi, Political & Communications Director, ATU Local 689

ATU Local 689 supports SB 55 and urges the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to issue a favorable report. This bill is a commonsense measure ensuring that Maryland does not waste money on unreal and unviable transportation options.

At Local 689, we represent over 15,000 transit workers and retirees throughout the Washington DC Metro Area performing many skilled transportation crafts for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), MetroAccess, Fairfax Connector, and DASH among others. Our union helped turn low-wage, exploitative transit jobs into transit careers. We became an engine for the middle-class of this region.

I will note that our Union is over a century old and has worked with changing technologies that moved the mass public throughout the DC region- be they electric streetcars, diesel buses, door-to-door paratransit, zero-emissions vehicles or heavy rail with and without automatic train control at Metro. We understand that technology can and must play a role in transit.

Additionally, as a Union of transit and transportation workers, we are often highly supportive of funding for projects that increase access, frequency, and reliability for a range of transit and transportation services. However, Magnetic Levitation Transportation System or Maglev, is neither a practical nor economical way for Marylanders to move. Especially seeing as the state is currently attempting to rectify structural deficits in the Transportation Trust Fund and General Funds, we do not believe that throwing good money after bad is remotely admissible.

SB 55 would prohibit the use of state funds for this distraction. Valuable dollars should be used in shoring up our existing transportation systems and increasing their safety, frequency, and reliability or in building valuable projects rooted in proven ability to meet the demands of a modern transportation system.

Local 689 thanks Senator Washington for introducing this worthy measure and urges the committee to issue a favorable report.