



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

January 30, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 48 - UNFAVORABLE - Railroad Companies - Condemnation Authority - Application

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Patriots Technology Training Center strongly opposes House Bill 48, which seeks to restrict the use of condemnation authority for the development of magnetic levitation (maglev) transportation systems. This bill targets specifically the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project, an initiative that offers a vital opportunity to inspire the next generation of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) leaders and foster economic growth in Maryland.

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 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 SCMAGLEV project represents a rare chance to create high-quality STEM jobs and provide young people, especially minorities and women, with career paths in advanced technology fields. By removing the tools needed to acquire property efficiently, House Bill 48 would halt this transformative project and prevent Maryland from cultivating innovative skills among its youth. Eminent domain is critical to ensuring that projects with widespread public benefits, like SCMAGLEV, can proceed without unnecessary delays or barriers.

As an organization committed to promoting STEM education and workforce development, we recognize the potential for projects like SCMAGLEV to inspire and empower Maryland's youth. This initiative would connect students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other institutions to cutting-edge career opportunities in engineering, technology, and infrastructure development. Denying this project the chance to move forward risks exacerbating the trend of our best and brightest Maryland educated professionals leaving the state in search of opportunities elsewhere.

House Bill 48 also undermines Maryland's ability to lead in sustainable transportation solutions. Maglev technology not only provides a cleaner, more efficient transit option but also demonstrates Maryland's commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship. By restricting the tools necessary to advance projects like SCMAGLEV, this legislation sends a discouraging message to industries and communities looking to invest in the state's future.

For these reasons, Patriots Technology Training Center urges the committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 48. The youth of Maryland, and the future of innovation in our state, are counting on your decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thurman Jones,
President
Patriots Technology Training Center