



February 14, 2025

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

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 400 – UNFAVORABLE – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Dear Chair Korman, Chair Barnes and Members of the Committees:

The Bi-County Business Roundtable is an organization representing businesses through the state of Maryland. We are one of the largest roundtables in the state and surrounding Washington Metropolitan region. We have earned our well-deserved reputation as the “Voice of the voiceless and the go-to for small business.” It is our aggressive pursuit of a health economic climate for business and an improved quality of life for local residents. At the core of our mission is the goal of advancing the interests of small business and helping to create wealth for a vibrant climate in the state of Maryland.

House Bill 400 prohibits the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation (maglev) transportation system located or to be located in the State, except for expenditures related to the salaries of personnel assigned to review permits or other forms of approval for such a transportation system.

This bill poses a significant threat to the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project, a transformative initiative with the potential to drive economic growth, create jobs, and establish Maryland as a leader in innovative infrastructure. With a \$4 billion commitment to minority and women-owned business enterprises, this project ensures that local businesses will directly benefit from its development. From construction and engineering contracts to operational and maintenance roles, the economic impact of the SCMAGLEV will ripple across communities, creating thousands of well-paying jobs and fostering long-term business growth.

Additionally, the SCMAGLEV project strengthens Maryland’s position in the global economy by fostering international partnerships. Through collaboration with Japan’s Central Japan Railway Company, the maglev system introduces cutting-edge technology to the Northeast Corridor, positioning Maryland at the forefront of transportation innovation. These global ties not only enhance the state’s competitiveness but also create opportunities for workforce development, educational partnerships, and knowledge sharing that will prepare Marylanders for emerging industries.

House Bill 400’s restrictions would effectively halt the SCMAGLEV project and prevent these benefits from materializing. Large-scale infrastructure projects like maglev rely on streamlined land acquisition processes to move forward efficiently. This bill creates a precedent that could hinder future initiatives, denying Maryland businesses and workers the opportunities they deserve.

This legislation also sends an anti-growth message that contradicts Maryland’s commitment to fostering innovation, attracting investment, and supporting its business community. The SCMAGLEV project is more than a transportation upgrade—it is a catalyst for economic advancement that will support small businesses, create jobs, and enhance connectivity across the region.

For these reasons, the Bi-County Business Roundtable urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable** report on House Bill 400. Supporting transformative projects like the SCMAGLEV is essential to ensuring Maryland's continued growth and prosperity.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Darryl Barnes

President

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