



January 30, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
The Honorable Regina Boyce, Vice Chair  
Committee on Environment and Transportation  
250 & 251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore-DC Building Trades  
on HB 48: Railroad Companies - Condemnation Authority - Application  
Position: UNFAVORABLE**

Thank you Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 48.

My name is Ray Baker. I am the Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

BDCBT strongly opposes HB 48. It is an attempt to stop the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project. This legislation jeopardizes an economic engine that has the potential to drive growth, support small businesses, and create thousands of jobs throughout Maryland. Support for this bill would also establish a precedent that limits the ability to execute large-scale infrastructure projects, which often involve condemnation authority. This would make it more challenging to pursue future infrastructure projects that benefit workers.

As dedicated advocates for organized labor and reliable infrastructure projects, we know firsthand the potential that investments in advanced technology, such as the SCMAGLEV, can hold. These projects provide significant labor opportunities, including construction jobs, operational roles, and long-term maintenance work.

Projects of this magnitude and dedication do not come around often. The development of a MAGLEV system would stimulate broader economic activity, benefiting local businesses and communities. Without the ability to streamline land acquisition through condemnation, these economic benefits might not materialize, affecting labor indirectly through reduced demand for local goods and services.

BDCBT urges the committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 48.

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