

**Date:** 2/12//25

**Subject:** Written Testimony in Favor of **HB0400** – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations –Magnetic Levitation Transportation System (Cross-file **SB0055**)

**To:** Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

**Description of Bill:**

House Bill HB0400 would prohibit Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) from appropriating funds from the state of Maryland to build the proposed SCMaglevtransportation system, “providing that the prohibition does not apply to certain expenditures for salaries” of state employees. This exception is in response to Northeast Maglev’s concerns that earlier versions of this bill had unintended consequences in that it would inadvertently tie their hands to work with the appropriate state personnel to acquire permits or other required approvals should the project go forward. By including this provision, the bill should be acceptable to BWRR and the Northeast Maglev.

My name is Rev. Dr. Melissa J. Sites. I am writing in support of HB0400, sponsored by Delegates Williams, Bartlett, Chang, Fennell, Healey, Ivey, Martinez and Rogers.

BWRR continues to seek federal funding for their project (SCMaglev). BWRR has repeatedly stated that they do not need state funds, yet they want state funds to be available *just in case* financial support is needed later. State transportation dollars should be protected and used for projects that will actually improve transit opportunities in Maryland; this bill should protect any funds from being directed toward the Maglev boondoggle, which will run through money without producing a good public transit option. Despite increasingly high projected costs, the project is likely to never be completed.

If Maglev ever gets off the ground, I am concerned it will constantly be running out of money, and continuously asking the state for funding that the people do not support. State financial resources and precious land could be seriously compromised for an unneeded project that will never be completed, and our beloved public land, a precious natural resource reserved and protected by the people, will be forever damaged, for ABSOLUTELY NO PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Further, BWRR has not yet been able to demonstrate to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) that the construction of this project will meet MDE’s requirements for protecting our waterways, another precious natural resource.

Much is on the line in this bill: Maryland’s financial resources, our natural resources of land and water, and the integrity of our communities. I ask that HB0400 be given a favorable vote and moved out of committee.

Sincerely,

Melissa J. Sites

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