



TESTIMONY OF AARON BAST, BUSINESS MANAGER AND FINANCIAL
SECRETARY TREASURER, IRON WORKERS LOCAL 5

BEFORE THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, AND HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

IN OPPOSITION TO HB400 / SB55

Dear Chairs Guzzone, Barnes, Feldman, Korman, and members of the committees,

As Business Manager / Financial secretary Treasurer of Iron Workers Local 5, representing thousands of skilled union ironworkers across the Mid-Atlantic, I write to strongly oppose HB400 / SB55, which would hinder progress on the Maglev train project—a critical infrastructure initiative poised to bring transformative benefits to our communities and workforce.

The Maglev train project is a groundbreaking opportunity to modernize transportation between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., offering clean, efficient, and sustainable transit while significantly easing traffic congestion and reducing emissions. More than just an infrastructure project, Maglev represents an economic engine that will create good-paying union jobs, provide career opportunities, and support middle-class families.

The Maglev project will generate thousands of union construction jobs, ensuring workers receive fair wages, benefits, and access to apprenticeship programs. These jobs will provide long-term economic stability for our members and help train the next generation of skilled ironworkers, ensuring a sustainable future for Maryland's workforce.

Our members are ready to build the future with safe, reliable, and high-quality craftsmanship. The Maglev project aligns with our union's mission to provide fair wages, strong labor protections, and opportunities for career growth.

Beyond job creation, the Maglev project will inject billions into the local economy, fostering business growth and economic development in the surrounding communities. Improved transportation will open up new job opportunities, reduce commute times, and enhance regional connectivity. Additionally, it supports Maryland's commitment to clean energy by reducing fossil fuel dependency and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The benefits of Maglev extend far beyond the construction phase, as it will provide ongoing economic and environmental advantages for generations to come.

Iron Workers Local 5 urges you to reject HB400 / SB55, which threatens to derail an essential infrastructure project and deny Maryland the significant economic and employment opportunities it promises. We respectfully ask for an unfavorable report and encourage lawmakers to support policies that advance sustainable transportation and good union jobs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron Bast
Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer
Iron Workers Local 5