



Eastern Atlantic States REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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Testimony of Mungu Sanchez of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC)

In Opposition to HB 48

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC), representing thousands of union carpenters across the Mid-Atlantic region, I write to express our strong opposition to HB 48, which seeks to restrict the condemnation authority for the Maglev train project—a transformative infrastructure initiative that will provide immense benefits to Maryland’s economy, workforce, and environment.

The Maglev train project offers a groundbreaking transportation solution, delivering clean, efficient, and sustainable transit between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. It will significantly reduce traffic congestion, cut emissions, and create economic opportunities that extend beyond transportation. This project is about more than just moving people; it’s about creating thousands of good-paying, union jobs that will provide long-term benefits to working families and communities across the state.

The Maglev project will bring thousands of high-quality union carpentry jobs, ensuring fair wages, comprehensive benefits, and career-building apprenticeship programs. These opportunities provide clear pathways to stable, middle-class careers and support Maryland’s efforts to maintain a skilled workforce for future infrastructure projects.

EASRCC stands ready to contribute our expertise in building the essential components of the Maglev system, ensuring the project is completed with the highest safety and craftsmanship standards.

The Maglev project is poised to inject billions into the local economy, generating new opportunities for businesses, workers, and communities alike. The improved transportation network will expand job access, reduce commute times, and support regional economic growth.

Moreover, the project aligns with Maryland’s clean energy goals by offering an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional transportation systems, helping to combat climate change and improve air quality.

For these reasons, the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters urges the committee to reject HB 48, which threatens to halt an essential infrastructure project

and its associated economic and workforce benefits. The Maglev train system represents an unparalleled opportunity to drive sustainable economic growth and create thousands of high-quality union jobs.

We respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB 48 and urge lawmakers to support policies that prioritize job creation and sustainable infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mungu Sanchez

Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC)