



Written Testimony to the Environment and Transportation Committee

HB.400– State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Sponsors: Delegates Williams, Bartlett, Chang, Fennell, Healey, Ivey, Martinez, and Rogers

February 14, 2025

Position: Oppose

The GBC's 2022 merger with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore has positioned our organization to unify business, civic, tech, academic, faith, and nonprofit stakeholders to support bold economic opportunities for the region. Our initiatives—which include elevating the Baltimore Region as one of the premiere innovation hubs in the world—will ensure our communities are at the cutting-edge of transformative technologies that will power the next generation of companies and science.

Transportation innovation is alive and well in America.

States and regions that compete with Maryland for talent and entrepreneurs are hubs for research, development, and the piloting of autonomous and green vehicles, as well as advanced transport systems. This work is being supported by state incentives and accelerator programs for mobility innovation, which are designed to spark ecosystems of entrepreneurs whose innovations will not only advance freight, air, port, and train travel, but will also help grow and attract the businesses and talent that will propel their economies forward.

Maryland is falling behind.

Maryland has a long history of industry and invention. Indeed, innovations in travel technologies have their roots in the commercial railways developed here nearly 200 years ago. Yet today our state is largely absent among the innovators addressing how we move people and goods and connect communities.

Maryland has not been asked to commit, nor has it committed, any public investment for technologies to advance magnetic levitation transportation systems. But at a time when our state's economy is struggling to remain competitive, it is crucial that public and private sector leaders support the message that we're "open for aspiration."

For this reason, we encourage you to submit an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Anthony Thomas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Anthony Thomas
President & Chief Executive Officer

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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