



January 30, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 48 - UNFAVORABLE - Railroad Companies - Condemnation Authority - Application

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Bi-County Business Roundtable is an organization representing businesses throughout the state of Maryland. We are one of the largest roundtables in the state and surrounding Washington Metropolitan region. We have earned our well-deserved reputation as the “Voice of the voiceless and the go-to for small business.” It is our aggressive pursuit of a healthy economic climate for business and an improved quality of life for local residents. At the core of our mission is the goal of advancing the interests of small business and helping to create wealth for a vibrant climate in the state of Maryland.

House Bill 48 would prohibit an entity that owns or operates a railroad powered by a magnetic levitation (maglev) propulsion system from any condemnation authority afforded to all other railroad companies in the State.

On behalf of the Bi-County Business Roundtable (BCBR), we strongly oppose House Bill 48, which would effectively block the development of 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 in Prince George’s County and throughout Maryland.

The SCMAGLEV project represents a transformative opportunity for Maryland’s business community. Its \$4 billion commitment to minority- and women-owned businesses ensures that local businesses benefit directly from the project’s development. From construction and engineering to maintenance and operational roles, this initiative promises to create thousands of well-paying jobs across multiple sectors, directly contributing to workforce development in the region. Furthermore, the project will stimulate broader economic activity by creating demand for goods, services, and partnerships with local institutions, fostering innovation and community engagement.

BCBR values opportunities that strengthen the local economy and create avenues for small businesses to grow. The SCMAGLEV project is not just an infrastructure improvement; it’s a catalyst for long-term economic prosperity. The development of this high-speed rail system would enhance connectivity between metropolitan hubs, reduce congestion on major highways, and improve the efficiency of commerce and goods movement. This is particularly critical for Maryland, as our businesses need efficient infrastructure to remain competitive in the rapidly expanding Northeast Corridor.



House Bill 48 threatens to derail these opportunities before they even materialize. By blocking the SCMAGLEV project, Maryland would risk sending a message that it is not business-friendly or committed to fostering growth. This would stand in direct opposition to Governor Moore's economic development agenda and Maryland's broader goals of inclusivity and innovation.

For these reasons, the Bi-County Business Roundtable urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable** report on House Bill 48. Supporting transformative infrastructure projects like the SCMAGLEV is essential to ensuring the future growth and prosperity of Maryland's businesses and residents.

Sincerely,
Darryl Barnes
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