



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 Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

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.

MTBMA strongly opposes House Bill 48 because of the drastic impact this would have on the SCMAGLEV project currently in development in the region. Railroads have always been given condemnation authority to ensure their ability to operate consistently and safely. In fact, during the hearings to provide Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail with a railroad franchise license, the Public Service Commission received a multitude of comments supporting the franchise license with no letters or comments opposing the license.

Removing condemnation authority for maglev rail companies would make it harder to secure necessary land for constructing maglev transportation systems. This could lead to fewer projects being initiated or completed, directly reducing the demand for workers and contractors in the transportation construction sector within Maryland. At a time when our State’s transportation budget has been and continues to be cut significantly, our member companies are hurting for work. Many, who are based in Maryland, now do more work in other states. Maglev rail systems represent cutting-edge transportation technology. Their construction requires specialized skills and training, providing a pathway for workers to engage in innovative and technically advanced projects. If such projects are stalled or canceled, the transportation construction community might lose the opportunity to advance skills and expertise in emerging technologies. The transportation construction community thrives on large-scale projects that require extensive planning, labor, and resources. Any legislation that restricts or complicates such developments can have a ripple effect, reducing opportunities, income, and advancement potential for those in the field.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 48.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association