

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus

Chair, Prince George's
County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 400

Good afternoon, Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and the members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams, and I will be testifying in favor of House Bill 400, also known as **State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System**. For those who are new to this committee, this bill would prohibit the state of Maryland from using appropriations for a possible magnetic levitation transportation system.

We understand that there is opposition to this bill and also understand the critical arguments to those concerns regarding the alleged benefits of the MAGLEV system. I want to begin by stating that we are not in opposition to innovation and expanding public transportation access, but rather the idea that the state would use our citizens' tax dollars to subsidize the expense of this project. We do see and understand the importance of creating a new and improved transportation system that would alleviate congestion in our current transportation system and cause individuals to travel more efficiently.

Furthermore, the train being proposed, the Northeast MAGLEV train, is the first of this type of technology to be built in the United States, proposing travel between Washington, D.C., and New York City. However, the only stop between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore will be BWI, meaning communities between the two cities will receive little benefit and may suffer irreparable harm once the train runs. Also, the lack of approvals from any of the other States along this proposed route shows that this proposal is not ready for prime time. Maryland taxpayers should not have to pay to help sponsor the construction of this private enterprise especially given the fiscal challenging times we are in.

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Our worry about not passing this bill is that the private company responsible for financing and constructing the MAGLEV train has yet to secure even half of its projected cost. They previously iterated that there would be no need to rely on state funding; however, what if this changes with the new predicted cost? By passing this legislation, we can hold them to their current promise. State funds could and should be secured for other priorities, such as improving our current transportation system, improving our neighborhoods, and bettering our education systems.

Maryland citizens should not be held responsible for the funding of this proposed project.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N. Williams', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.