



Eastern Atlantic States REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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Testimony of Mungu Sanchez of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

In Opposition to HB400 / SB55

Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, House Appropriations Committee,
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, and House Environment
and Transportation Committee

Dear Chairs Guzzone, Barnes, Feldman, and Korman,

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC), which represents thousands of dedicated union carpenters across the Mid-Atlantic region, I am writing to respectfully oppose HB400 / SB55, legislation that would hinder the advancement of the Maglev train project, a transformative infrastructure investment with far-reaching benefits for our communities and workforce.

The Maglev train project presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revolutionize transportation along the Baltimore-Washington corridor, providing clean, efficient, and sustainable mobility solutions while significantly reducing congestion and emissions. This project is not just about transportation; it's about economic opportunity, offering high-quality, union jobs that support working families, create pathways to the middle class, and foster long-term career development in skilled trades.

The Maglev project has the potential to create thousands of union construction jobs with strong labor standards, ensuring prevailing wages, benefits, and apprenticeships that empower the next generation of skilled tradespeople. This project aligns with our commitment to fair wages, safe working conditions, and career advancement, helping to sustain the middle class and ensure a thriving labor force for years to come.

Additionally, the Maglev initiative will generate new training opportunities for apprentices in our region, helping to address workforce shortages and equip workers with the specialized skills needed for 21st-century infrastructure projects. Union carpenters will play a pivotal role in constructing state-of-the-art stations and track systems that will serve Marylanders for decades to come.

Beyond job creation, the Maglev project promises to stimulate local economies, attract private investment, and support businesses in the surrounding areas. Improved transportation options will allow workers to access new employment opportunities, reduce travel time, and enhance regional connectivity. The economic ripple effects of this project will benefit not only construction workers but also small businesses and local communities throughout Maryland.

Furthermore, the Maglev system aligns with Maryland's clean energy goals, offering a sustainable alternative to traditional transportation methods. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering greenhouse gas emissions will contribute to a healthier environment for future generations.

For these reasons, EASRCC strongly opposes HB400 / SB55, which threatens to derail this critical infrastructure investment and the many benefits it will bring to Maryland's economy and working families. We urge you to prioritize projects that provide long-term, sustainable employment opportunities for our skilled workforce while advancing the state's transportation and environmental objectives.

Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully ask for an unfavorable report on HB400 / SB55.

Sincerely,

Mungu Sanchez
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters