

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 Eastern Atlantic Sates Regional Council of Carpenters (EAS Carpenters Union), strives to be on equity with employers, establish shorter workdays and increase pay for the work provided. Most importantly, they want to spread their work among as many members as possible. EAS Carpenters has made great advances throughout North America and has established itself as one of the nation's largest, strongest and most respected unions. Today, we have over 532,000 members, representing 872 locals.

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. By restricting the ability to efficiently acquire property, this bill effectively cancels the development of projects like maglev, cutting off a vital source of job creation and economic growth for our state.

We recognize the transformative potential of large-scale infrastructure projects to provide substantial labor opportunities. The construction and development of a high-speed maglev system would generate thousands of good-paying jobs for carpenters, construction workers, and other trades, while the system's long-term maintenance and operations would provide sustained employment opportunities for years to come. Additionally, such projects stimulate broader economic activity, creating demand for local goods and services that indirectly benefit workers and their communities.

House Bill 48 not only jeopardizes the immediate labor opportunities tied to the maglev project but also sets a damaging precedent that could hinder future infrastructure investments. Large-scale projects often require condemnation authority to streamline land acquisition and ensure timely completion. By undermining this authority, the bill sends a clear message that Maryland is unwilling to invest in the kinds of transformative infrastructure initiatives that directly benefit workers and drive economic growth.

We strongly urge the committee to reject House Bill 48 and instead support innovative projects that uplift Maryland's labor force and contribute to a thriving economy. For the sake of Maryland's workers, families, and communities, we ask for an **unfavorable** report on this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Lamar Mutts, Council Representative  
Eastern Atlantic Sates Regional Council of Carpenters