



February 12, 2025,

HB 400

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

RE: RE: **Opposition** to HB 0400 State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Dear Chair Korman, and Members of House Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's hundreds of member businesses and thousands of employees throughout the state, this letter is in opposition to HB 400 - State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System.

As this chamber is well-aware, the state is facing major budget shortfalls that will force leadership to make difficult choices about how to invest in Maryland's future. Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail have never asked the state for funds, meaning this bill addresses a non-existent issue. Why waste the legislature's time focused on a non-issue when there are clearly more pressing matters to attend to?

Furthermore, this legislation has not changed from prior appearances before this committee. Passage of this obstructionist legislation would make a strong statement about Maryland – that State leadership is closed to innovation.

We believe the State and the region should be open to any and all ideas that seek to ameliorate our pressing problem of congestion, which threatens our economy's growth on a daily basis. Large scale investments in our state should be encouraged as they provide substantial jobs and enhancement to the economic health of our business community. We ask you to please vote UNFAVORABLE on this short-sighted bill which reflects the lack of long-range planning for our community's future and that of the State. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marco V. Ávila, P.E.' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Marco V. Ávila, P.E.

Chairman of the Board & President/CEO
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
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