



TESTIMONY OF AARON BAST, BUSINESS MANAGER AND FINANCIAL
SECRETARY TREASURER, IRON WORKERS LOCAL 5
BEFORE THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
IN OPPOSITION TO HB48

Dear Chair Korman and members of the committee,

As Business Manager / Financial secretary Treasurer of Iron Workers Local 5, representing thousands of skilled union ironworkers across the Mid-Atlantic, I write to strongly oppose HB 48, which would restrict the condemnation authority for the Maglev train project, a transformative infrastructure initiative poised to bring substantial economic and employment benefits to Maryland.

The Maglev train project is a crucial investment in Maryland's future, offering clean, efficient, and sustainable transportation between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. It will significantly reduce congestion, lower emissions, and provide Marylanders with a state-of-the-art transit option. More than just a transportation solution, Maglev will serve as an economic catalyst, generating thousands of high-quality union jobs, supporting working families, and bolstering local economies.

The Maglev project will create thousands of union construction jobs, providing fair wages, benefits, and training opportunities through registered apprenticeship programs. These jobs offer a pathway to the middle class and will help develop a highly skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of cutting-edge infrastructure projects.

Iron Workers Local 5 is committed to ensuring that our members are at the forefront of building this transformative project, which promises to provide long-term employment and career advancement opportunities while maintaining the highest safety and quality standards.

Beyond job creation, the Maglev project will attract significant private investment, stimulate local businesses, and support economic growth throughout the region. Enhanced transportation options will allow Marylanders to access more job opportunities, reduce commute times, and improve quality of life.

Furthermore, the Maglev system aligns with Maryland's climate goals by offering a sustainable alternative to traditional transportation, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and contributing to cleaner air and a healthier environment for future generations.

Iron Workers Local 5 urges the committee to reject HB 48, which would undermine the progress and potential of this vital infrastructure project. The Maglev train system represents a generational opportunity to drive economic growth, create good union jobs, and enhance Maryland's transportation network. We respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB 48 and encourage lawmakers to support policies that promote job creation and sustainable infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron Bast
Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer
Iron Workers Local 5