

February 10, 2025

## **HB0400 – UNFAVORABLE TESTIMONY**

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

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

Dear Chair Korman:

The Prince George's Contractors and Business Association (PGCBA) has provided strong leadership and advocacy for issues that enhance the opportunity for small, women and minority businesses to exist and grow. PGCBA was established in 1989 and has over 35 years of experience in fostering small and medium-sized, women and minority businesses. Our Mission is to assure that the businesses that we represent have a fair, equitable opportunity to create wealth and employ citizens within our communities. This includes access to vehicles that provide capital and resources. This bill is uncalled for and anti-business. Maryland is looking to attract businesses, not limit and punish good corporate partners who have never asked for State funds.

We wish to share with you our support for the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail high-speed rail project that will connect Baltimore to Washington D.C. in 15 minutes and will provide \$4 billion in economic opportunities to minority and women owned businesses.

I have been fortunate to have in-depth conversations with Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail about their plans to develop the MAGLEV system equitably. Making sure that women and people of color have equitable access to the multitude of opportunities associated with this project is crucial to aligning with our state's ambition of building a brighter future for all Marylanders.

BWRR is not asking, and has pledged not to ask for state funds in developing the project. This means HB0400 is a bad solution to a non-existent problem. Additionally, it sends a frightening message to future generations that we have no qualms making short-sighted decisions before they even have a chance to weigh in, an affront to their autonomy. All Marylanders must have every tool at their disposal to fight the climate crisis and build safe and reliable transportation systems.

I ask that the committee **submit an unfavorable report on this bill.**

Sincerely,



Joseph Gaskins  
President & Chairman of the Board  
Prince George's County Contractor's & Business Association  
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