

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:
CHOICE Building Trades Council – AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council – AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council – AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council – AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. – AFL-CIO
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Testimony of
Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the
Appropriations Committee

On

HB-715 State Finance and Procurement – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation
Transportation System

Strongly Oppose

February 24, 2020

Dear Madam Chair McIntosh and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I am a 40 year member, and Business Manager, of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 24 located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I started as an apprentice in 1979 and have held numerous positions over the years. The reason I give my background is to show my commitment to not only my profession but to all working men and women in Maryland.

HB-715 is NOT good for my members, other building tradespersons, and Marylanders because it would eliminate the possibility of 74,000 construction jobs.

It will eliminate an opportunity for a young Marylander who cannot afford a College Education a chance to learn a trade as an apprentice. This trade is more than a job, it is a CAREER and an opportunity for future work that pays well and has great benefits.

My members and I oppose this bill; we want Maryland to be an innovator of High Speed Rail Transportation in the United States. This line may one day travel up and down the Northeast corridor, think of the economic impact that will create for our state.

I'm sure some of you have traveled I-95 or the Baltimore and Washington Parkway during rush hour and have experienced the stop and go traffic jams that are increasing in our area every year. This project has the potential to ease that problem along with helping to create economic activity and good jobs.

Please give HB-715 an unfavorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:CLR
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2