



110 Years Empowering "Men and Women of the Gospel to Change Our Direction to Claim Our Destiny" (Deut. 1:6-7)

**Bishop J. L. Carter, MCBV President, pastor@arkchurch.com
c/o Ark Church, 1263 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21202; ministersconferencebaltimore.com**

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
MD General Assembly
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0253 State Finance and Procurement - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity, I write to you today in enthusiastic support of the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV project and ask that you take this letter into consideration when contemplating Senate Bill 253.

A strong transportation system is fundamental to the growth of the region, the Northeast Corridor, and the Nation. This state-of-the-art project will not only decrease regional highway traffic, helping to ease commutes, but a project of this size will also be beneficial to local and regional communities.

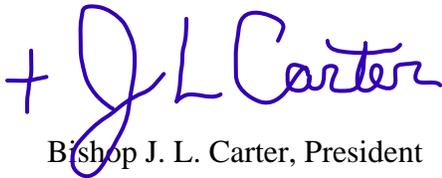
Among the many reasons we support this project:

- The development of the SCMAGLEV will increase job, training and career opportunities in construction, engineering and other related industries.
- The development of the SCMAGLEV will provide vast education opportunities, connecting thousands of students to top tier institutions.
- The development of the SCMAGLEV will introduce a net reduction of stress on the environment by reducing the number of harmful automobile emissions and contaminants that harm the quality of our air and water.

Senate Bill 253 threatens to stand in the way of this truly transformational, clean transportation solution. As the project is in the midst of a federally mandated independent environmental review process, it is myopic to introduce limits to the project before it is fully studied. This bill is a roadblock to potential opportunities for many in the Baltimore and Washington areas, and does nothing but stand in the way of the type of progress I and the Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity stand for.

We are enthused about supporting Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail's development of the SCMAGLEV that will provide opportunity for so many and urge you to report unfavorably on this particular bill.

Yours in the Master's Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J L Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. To the left of the first letter "J" is a small plus sign "+".

Bishop J. L. Carter, President

Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity