



The Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance (SMTA) wishes to voice its opposition to SB0188, the bill which prohibits the State and certain units and instrumentalities of the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State. SMTA believes all possibilities related to potential transportation infrastructure should be pursued for a region that is choking in its congestion. While the “dream” of a MAG LEV may seem futuristic, the idea of promoting a bill that would completely doom a project that has the potential of positive enhancements for our region and the Eastern seaboard beyond is truly narrow-minded. SMTA has always prided itself as being the advocate for both roads and transit in a geographic area that often finds proponents of each pitted against one another. We have always maintained that in order to improve congestion and thusly the quality of life in our region, all forms of transportation improvements are desperately needed.

There is no request for State funds within the scope of this bill, and any financial commitment by the State of Maryland would be left in the future to State decision-makers. This is a project with possibilities, primarily transportation oriented as well as economic development focused. Many jobs could be created in the future, a concept from which our post-pandemic economy would certainly benefit. By supporting this obstructionist bill, Maryland announces its fear of innovation and its distrust of private investment in infrastructure. Certainly not the preferred message for our future generations. Given the lack of public funding available for such megaprojects, where would we go from here with such a narrow-minded approach? We urge you to oppose this bill which creates the image that Maryland is not seeking economic progress.