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Together Strengthening Our Community

January 25, 2021

Senator Delores G. Kelley, *Chair*  
Senator Brian J. Feldman, *Vice-Chair*  
Senate Finance Committee  
VIA Email

**Re: SB0188 [Cross-filed with HB0063] State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System, Sponsored by Sen. Paul Pinsky**

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing today in support of SB0188, prohibiting the State and certain units and instrumentalities of the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State; and providing that the prohibition does not apply to certain expenditures for salaries.

From the moment the Maglev project was first announced, I knew that any route chosen would need to come through Prince George's County Councilmanic District 3, which I am honored to represent. Consequently, I have followed this project and weighed in with my strong concerns and deep skepticism from the beginning. As a longtime transit advocate, I know this project also missed a key ingredient of good transit—improved equity and access.

The current alignment would travel under residences as well as schools in my district including the communities of New Carrollton, Martin's Wood, Beacon Heights, and Woodlawn/Glenridge. For those who are unfamiliar with this part of the county, the average income is roughly \$15-20,000 below the county average and, like most of the county, is a predominately Black and Brown community. The ventilation and effects of tunneling below homes and schools are only now becoming known to the community (minimal outreach has occurred). Simply ask yourself, would you want this new tunnel and its ventilation demands in your neighborhood or under your home? Like me, you would likely say no or have deep reservations.

Couple these concerns with the reality that this proposal creates no long-term benefit for our residents when the closest access—in DC or at BWI—will be 30 minutes away on average. The suggested cost for a trip from DC to Baltimore has always been Acela prices—too much for many. Maglev simply fails to improve access and equity for Prince George's County. With limited transportation resources, it is essential that the State prioritize projects that will truly



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grow the state and local economies and provide the greatest benefits to our residents. Please support SB0188 and take actions to address this poorly conceived project.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly at [DMGlaros@co.pg.md.us](mailto:DMGlaros@co.pg.md.us) or on my cell at 240-416-5803.

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