

From: JEAN E NEWCOMB jnewcomb1@mac.com
Subject: HB0704 (Greenbelt Matters)
Date: February 11, 2021 at 11:23 AM
To:



To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting this late testimony regarding HB0704. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony late. I misunderstood the deadline, thinking it was Friday, Feb. 12, not Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021.

To: The Honorable Chair Barve and all members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Re: HB0704: Prohibiting a person from constructing a magnetic levitation transportation system within 2 miles of certain property; prohibiting units of State and local government from taking certain actions related to the construction of a Maglev within 2 miles of certain property; establishing that the prohibitions under the Act do not apply if certain approvals have been obtained; authorizing counties to adopt local laws for the use of certain land under certain circumstances; etc.

Sincerely,
Jean Newcomb
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301-441-9023

I favor HB0704 for the following reasons.

Greenbelt Matters

Greenbelt, where I settled in 1987, and took root among the tall trees and walking trails, is once again targeted for development. High rises, code changes, retirement homes, reengineered once-meandering streams, permanent highways that have chopped it up, and you name it—have all been recommended for its future demise (time and time again). The historic land is disappearing under so much construction (once named for and surrounded by 800 acres of green space: now only 200), and I am deeply troubled. And, it doesn't have to be this way, especially because of too much ill-conceived major transportation that strips away our fundamental quality of life. This plan will benefit a steady stream of business interests, not local people footing the bill. Not because it should... but because its history can be disposed of so readily without considering the serious consequences not being addressed!

There are signs in and around my yard:

STOP THE MAGLEV

BLACK LIVES MATTER

PESTICIDE-FREE ZONE

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL; ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

PESTICIDE FREE: THIS AREA IS HEALTHY FOR CHILDREN, PETS AND OTHER LIVING BEINGS

The reason why these signs exist follows:

We need a place to grow, not only buildings and businesses, but relief from overcrowding that ignores culture and purpose.

We need people who raise children to develop a sense of wonder and respect for the natural world we are part of. Just ask my neighbors with new-borns and elementary-school age children.

We need more art at local schools inspired by what we love: pollinator gardens that welcome the public to the school, along with butterfly mosaic panels installed across the building and created by students.

We need educational opportunities (not realized fully) in an underserved community, established for moderate income-priced houses and work.

We need clean air, quiet walks with pets, friends and family within a simple community forest (The Forest Preserve) full of wonder and within walking distance.

We need land that cleans and oxygenates the air, protects dwindling wildlife habitats, acts as a carbon sink, provides erosion control, prevents flooding, provides a natural laboratory to learn about botanical life and animals, affords ability to watch migratory birds and observe the planetary universe above, and reduces dependency on fossil fuels.

We need the blessings of land, breathable air, and water uncontaminated with fossil fuels and compounds manufactured in factories that are thrown about from traffic congestion.

We need people to believe our world can be improved, not radically subverted for a few more abstract shares that billionaires covet. The maglev will suit business travelers (a specialized sector from distant cities), and we pay the price in taxes and loss of revenue. This economic and environmental loss is underestimated and irreplaceable.

I think we can all agree that solving problems takes great skill, expertise, experience and compassion. It's what makes life fulfilling. So, when it happens that more problems are created that will only add to the accumulation of distorted progress, this needs to be addressed and remedied.

The maglev is not a problem-solver for this community: it is a problem-maker. We can ill-afford to finance another project to be followed by even more unrelenting demands that are cooking the books right now.

Graphic briefs show a history of attempts to sustain our home:

LOOK OUT! MORE INVASIVES COMING!!!



What happened?

The only thing missing is the PROCESS!



