

To Whom it May Concern,

I am submitting this late testimony regarding HB0704 on **Monday February 15, 2021**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this. Some of my comments are based on what others have had to say about the maglev debacle.

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

I am writing in favor of HB0704 for the following reasons:

1. Forests and natural green spaces are needed for a healthy environment.
2. Human health relies on access to forests and natural green spaces.
 - Human health improves when people have access to forests.
 - Recreation in healthy forests and natural green spaces is a basic right and important for human health.

3. Public lands belong to the public; they are not here for the profit of private corporations.

Specific to the Greenbelt Forest Preserve: this forest exists today because thousands of local citizens fought for over 60 years to protect it from several efforts to develop it and use it for various projects. This forest represents a legacy of citizen intervention. To destroy the Greenbelt Forest Preserve is to destroy not just the ecosystems and the many benefits local citizens receive from it, but it also destroys the legacy of all those thousands of citizens who worked so steadily and intensively to preserve it. Do not take this preserve away from those who worked for it and from those human and wild lives who benefit and depend immeasurably from having access to the forest.

4. The NO BUILD option will allow the environmental health of our forests and green spaces to continue to benefit the health of citizens of Prince Georges, and to manage the challenges of air and water quality, storm water, wetland functions and climate change.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. I might add that my 65 years of life on this planet was shaped by access to forests along the east and west coasts of the United States. It made me healthy; it keeps me healthy. With dwindling forest preserves on this planet due to greed and arrogance, it makes me sad for how humans can be so biased in favor of satisfying humans rather than treating all species of life equally and with respect. We are doomed if forest preserves like the one here in Greenbelt are decimated and laid waste because we want to have bragging rights to this transportation technology that advertises a quick trip from DC to Baltimore while bypassing those of us in Greenbelt.

Sincerely,

Joe Robbins
59 Ridge Road, Unit G
Greenbelt, MD 20770
202-445-5964
Robbins629@msn.com