

February 12, 2021  
The Honorable Delegate Kumar P. Barve  
Chairman of the House Environment & Transportation Committee  
6 Bladen Street, Room 251

### **House Bill 63**

Good afternoon committee members. I am strongly opposed to the SCMaglev project am asking that you **support the bills SB0188/HB0063 by Senator Pinsky and Delegate Williams** to prohibit appropriations to this project and HB704 to prohibit the project from being sited on certain property. The vibration impacts and severe noise impacts from this project are of great concern to me and my neighbors living near where the tunnel section transitions to the surface/elevated section.

This project will cause irreversible harm to the green spaces of my community. The City of Greenbelt was named for the “green belt” of 800 acres of forest that surrounded the town when it was founded. Over the years fully three-quarters of those green spaces have been lost to development projects and what remains is the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. One currently proposed route will destroy fully one half of the North Woods Branch of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. According to the City of Greenbelt

<https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/community/greenbelt-forest-preserve>): “(a)mong all of the tracts in the Forest Preserve, the North Woods Tract contains the greatest diversity of species and habitats and is considered the most ecologically valuable.... The types of habitats within the North Woods Tract include floodplain, cove forest, seep, vernal pools, upland oak-hickory forest, and heath forest. The North Woods Tract also contains a considerable area that is suitable for species that dwell preferentially in forest interiors.... “

I and my Greenbelt community walk in those woods and can attest to the diversity of species of animals and plants to be found there. There are very large and very old trees in the North Woods Branch, some of which predate the founding of the City of Greenbelt in 1937. I agree with the City of Greenbelt as it states

<https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/community/greenbelt-forest-preserve>):“(t)he Forest Preserve serves a vital function by providing a link between residents of the city and nature. The Forest Preserve is part of Greenbelt’s cultural identity, its ambiance and sense of place. It adds to Greenbelt’s air and water quality and ultimately, by reducing stormwater runoff, improves the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. By providing a form of passive recreation, it contributes to the health and wellness of Greenbelt residents.”

Sincerely,

George Diez

Greenbelt, Maryland