



Testimony of Mechanical Contractors Association on Metro Washington (MCAMW)

HB63

State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

POSITION: OPPOSE / UNFAVORABLE

Honorable members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association on Metro Washington (MCAMW), the 180 construction contractors that we represent, and the 10,000 workers and 1,100 hard-working apprentices among our ranks, I write in strong support of the proposed MAGLEV project, and in strong opposition to HB63.

Maryland needs this project, its jobs, and especially its revenues that fund our outstanding K-12 schools and progressive programs throughout the state. Despite that, this legislation does not attempt any concessions, discussions, or middle-ground in building the \$15 BILLION project. Put simply: It seeks to stop the MAGLEV project, and end its prospects, permanently.

This legislation creates no alternatives for the 161,000 – 195,000 good jobs that would be created under the MAGLEV project, or the estimated \$10 BILLION in outstanding construction wages to Marylanders, or the 400 permanent operational jobs and their \$25 million in annual wages for decades after the MAGLEV project's completion. Beyond these, HB63 provides no alternative or remedial funding for the \$28 Million that President Obama authorized specifically for Maryland to begin consideration of this project.

The MCAMW understands just how difficult it is to create good-paying jobs, and revenues, because our own MCAMW economic footprint generates some \$2 BILLION in annual revenue, and some \$500 MILLION in state, federal and local taxes each and every year. We do it by investing in outstanding apprenticeship training programs, world-class construction standards, and by partnering within the private sector and governmental sectors to build the highest quality infrastructure to be found anywhere in the world.

This legislation doesn't help in those efforts – it is an affront to the work that we do, and the very real and constructive process that we and our affiliates and governmental partners undergo to imagine and realize the infrastructure that all Marylander's rely upon.

For these and many other reasons, we respectfully urge this committee for an unfavorable report.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Bello", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas L. Bello
Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington