

Support HB0704- Land Use- Magnetic Levitation Transportation System Siting (Maryland Stop the Maglev Act of 2021)

Sponsor- Del. Ivey Hearing-2/11 at 1:30 Environment and Transportation

To Delegate Barve, Chair, Delegate Stein, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

As a Master Naturalist, a retired healthcare worker, and a grandmother, I strongly urge you to support HB 0704 (Maryland Stop the Maglev Act of 2021). Over the years I have enjoyed outdoor recreational and stewardship activities in our natural areas. I have seen parks and refuges swell with visitors during the pandemic. We can't now condemn these places of refuge to the devastation proposed by the Maglev.

Please do not allow a project of extremely questionable merits, not to this day backed by sufficient data, to cloud our vision to what is real--- Maglev will not have any commercial or economic benefits for the communities and neighborhoods along its proposed route. According to the DEIS, negative construction impacts to business revenues in the affected areas of Prince George's County may be significant, ranging from \$18.5 million to \$311.3 million (2018 dollars). This decrease in business revenues is due to lane closures, traffic delays, and limited accessibility that would reduce the number of people frequenting the area and supporting businesses. According to Maglev officials, the service would target the "elite business travelers." The average one way fare on Maglev is estimated to be about \$60, and there are no stops in Prince George's County.

The ill conceived Maglev project proposes a 200 acre trainyard at the Patuxent Research Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center---an unacceptable threat as we try to recover from the pandemic and fight the worst effects of climate change. The forests, meadows, and wetlands of the PRR/BARC also provide ecosystem services that directly benefit environmental and human health (\$35 million of ecosystem services/year according to Maryland DNR's Greenprint mapping service). There is no way to mitigate the loss of these services, or to replace globally rare habitat---when they're gone, they're gone!

Residents along Maglev's route will pay a high price and receive little-to-no benefit from this massively expensive project for the rich. There are higher value and more equitable transportation projects worthy of your support. Please STOP the MAGLEV and support HB0704.

Thank you,
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