



"Empowering Students Through Technology"

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February 11, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
MD General Assembly
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB0704 Land Use – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System Siting
(Maryland Stop the Maglev Act of 2021)

POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the committee,

As President of the Patriots Technology Training Center, I am writing to express our organization's strong opposition to HB0704.

For more than two decades Patriots' mission has been "empowering students through technology". Our goal is to increase the number of 5th to 12th grade students entering into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), ultimately leading to a college education and career paths in these fields. Our various programs, camps, seminars, and activities serve to introduce youth to tomorrow's careers.

The Northeast Maglev project represents the pinnacle of opportunity for today's youth. The influx of high tech construction and operations jobs, with stations located in Baltimore, DC, and at BWI, will provide tremendous opportunity for our youth - opportunity to be part of the most advanced transportation system in the world. Once the project is complete, ultimately connecting major metropolitan areas of the Northeast Corridor, today's youth will continue to benefit with easy access to opportunities along the entire route.

We also recognize that a project like this will benefit businesses and people beyond the Baltimore/Washington region. It represents job, business and development opportunities, and community growth for millions along the Northeast Corridor. This project represents a future with less pollution, traffic, and with an emphasis on clean, efficient transportation and transit-oriented development. For the youth we serve, we want to be a part of this future.

HB0704 is a clear attempt to stop this project, and in effect stifle opportunity for today's youth and for future generations and opportunity for careers, economic development, access, and a cleaner environment. Please submit an unfavorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Thurman Jones, President
Patriots Technology Training Center