

Testimony for: HB0063 State Finance-Prohibited Appropriations-Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Sponsor: Del. Williams

Hearing: 2/5/21

Position: Favorable

Person submitting: Maureen Fine, 2509 Knighthill Lane, Bowie, MD 20715

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I ask you to please support HB0063, and prohibit funding of the Maglev. It would be one of the most expensive rail lines ever built on a per mile basis, an estimated \$250. million per mile as per Carol Park, a senior policy analyst for the MD Public Policy Institute. And tax dollars will definitely be needed---tax dollars that will come from far higher priority state and national infrastructure projects.

Please invest in more high value, more equitable transportation projects that would provide a train system most residents can afford to ride, and that won't destroy the health and quality of life in our communities. Maglev's estimated average fare is projected to be \$60---not an equitable transit solution, and there are no stops in Prince George's County! The Maglev site itself proclaims it to be a train for "elite business travelers."

According to the DEIS, negative construction impacts to business revenues in the affected areas 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.

The Maglev builders have made many questionable claims about what this train would bring to our area, regarding traffic, ridership, job creation, and emissions reduction, **without providing the data** to back up those claims. Experts have debunked most of Maglev's false claims. Their empty promise of cutting emissions has been shot down by NASA atmospheric scientist, Owen Kelly, in his article "Would the Proposed Maglev Increase Greenhouse Gas Emissions? --- a closer look shows that Maglev actually increases GHG emissions.

(<https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/prince-georges/blog/2020/12/would-proposed-baltimore-washington-maglev-increase-greenhouse>)

I am a Master Naturalist, a retired healthcare worker, and a grandmother, and over the years I have hiked, watched birds, and volunteered for Citizen Science activities at Patuxent Research Refuge. I have seen our local natural areas swell with visitors during the pandemic. Maglev proposes a 200 acre trainyard at Patuxent Research Refuge/Beltsville Agricultural Research Refuge, in the headwaters of the Little Patuxent River, that will destroy biodiversity and the renowned research centers' ability to perform ecosystem services valued at \$35 million per year (MD DNR's Greenprint mapping service). One fourth of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve and other parklands and local natural areas will be destroyed. Intact natural areas are of well documented importance in our fight against Climate Change, to sequester carbon and to provide a cooling effect. We need more efforts to protect and build on our current intact ecosystems, not deforestation and degradation such as the Maglev proposes.

Please do not fund the Maglev, a project that brings nothing but immense disruption---destruction of homes, businesses and the environment, vibration, noise, increased diesel traffic, potential electromagnetic field exposure and dangerous emissions from the tunnel sections. Please don't use state monies for this boondoggle transportation project. Support HB0063.

Thank you,
Maureen Fine