



## Environment Committee

**Committee:** Environmental and Transportation Appropriations  
**Testimony on:** HB0063 – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation 2 Transportation System  
**Organization:** Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
**Submitting:** Rhonda Kranz  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 12, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting our written testimony today in support of HB 0063. The Takoma Park Mobilization (TPM) is a grassroots organization based in Takoma Park, Montgomery County and focused on state and local climate change issues. The TPM Environment Committee urges you to vote favorably on HB0063. The bill will bring much-needed protection of public funds by prohibiting the State and certain units and instrumentalities of the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State; and providing that the prohibition does not apply to certain expenditures for salaries.

Maryland has recently experienced significant cost overruns in large transportation projects. The Purple Line has encountered major financial problems with overruns of over half a million dollars, much of which will be borne by Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. Excessive cost overruns in development of the Inter County Connector cost millions of federal tax payers' dollars. It is essential that Maryland does not take responsibility for delays and contractual problems if the proposed MAGLEV project is accepted.

Taxpayers have already covered the over five million Federal dollars cost for the MAGLEV environmental assessment process (i.e., DEIS, EIS) and other aspects of the proposed project. Prince Georges and Baltimore Counties would incur major financial and environmental costs of building the train, and much of the burden will be on underserved populations. There should be no further burden on Maryland taxpayers from this project.

Additionally, Takoma Park is uniquely located in Montgomery County on the Prince Georges County border. As such, Takoma City residents would be affected directly by MAGLEV and its construction, traffic, and environmental impacts. Takoma Park residents should not also have to bear the financial costs of a MAGLEV project which is not fully funded by the private developer, especially if the project runs into difficulties and escalating costs as we have seen in the projects mentioned above.

For these reasons we urge a favorable vote for HB0063.