



Maryland House of Delegates - Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair: Kumar P. Barve

Vice Chair: Dana Stein

**House Bill 704 - Land Use – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System Siting (Maryland Stop the Maglev Act of 2021)**

**Position: Oppose**

Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

The **Baltimore DC Building Trades Unions support the MagLev project.**

The Baltimore DC Building Trades Council represents 24 Local Union affiliates with over 25,000 skilled craft professionals in the building and construction industry in the greater Baltimore/Washington, DC/Northern Virginia region.

**The implementation of the House Bill 704 would prohibit** any construction of a Maglev system within Prince George's County or any other MD County.

The bill introduced as PG 406-21 to the Prince George's Delegation as an emergency act for public safety and health is a bit alarmist. Especially since the introduction of a carbon free transportation system will reduce congestion and remove 2 million tons of emissions from decreased vehicle miles traveled. NEPA is the process that federal agencies follow to analyze the potential consequences of proposed projects on the environment, engage the public and document the analysis to ensure informed decision-making. It is an umbrella law that includes the EIS that will be made public by the Maryland Transit Administration for review and comment. As part of the EIS process, the range of impacts, including train noise, vibration, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act are evaluated. The time for public comment is now open for 90 days from January 22, 2021 through May 22, 2021. FRA - MDOT Release attached. This bill preempts and voids the public's right to due process.

The BDCBT has 13 brick and mortar apprenticeship training centers located in Prince George's County and 10 apprenticeship training Centers in the Baltimore area with an equal number of corresponding Union Halls. We recruit from the county's public schools and provide direct entry and employment for those students enrolled in the CTE construction courses.

**HB 704** is an attempt to block, not only a potential source of thousands of transportation construction jobs, but a potential source of permanent employment opportunity and public good for so many.

As advocates for organized labor, we know first hand what a project like this can mean for so many that need a chance for opportunity. Only a few projects of this magnitude ever come around in a lifetime, House Bill 704 is tantamount to throwing away an opportunity for growth and economic development and to throwing away a potential future for so many. It is important not to cripple the MAGLEV project but allow it to take its normal course to fruition.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Guido

**Value on Display... Everyday.**

