

## National Action Network

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 the spokesperson of the National Action Network's Greater Baltimore Chapter, I am writing to express our organization's strong opposition to **HB0704**.

The National Action Network is one of the leading civil rights organizations in the Nation with dozens of chapters throughout the entire United States. Founded in 1991 by Reverend Al Sharpton, NAN works within the spirit and tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to promote a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one standard of justice, decency and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, criminal record, economic status, gender, gender expression, or sexuality.

Two key goals of our national organization, as well as our local chapter focus on Youth Leadership and Bridging the Digital Divide. We seek to lift up the voices of our young people so that they may lead the fight for the next generations. We strongly believe in the importance of taking the time to listen to the passionate and visionary voices of our youth. At the same time, we work to make sure that young and old alike are adapting to the future ahead and can be competitive members of the workforce.

A once-in-a-lifetime project like this, when connected with organizations like ours, can help our young people build life-long career skills and opportunities. By bringing this kind of advanced technology and marrying it with the right training and education programs, we will lift up thousands of local youth into high-paying, fulfilling careers.

We also recognize that a project like this will benefit businesses and people beyond the Baltimore 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. We want to be a part of this future.

**HB0704** is an attempt to stop this project, and in effect stop jobs and training programs from becoming available for our young people. This is about the future, we need to look forward rather than continue to stick to the status quo.

Please submit an unfavorable report and help give our children a chance at a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Jason Rodriguez

Spokesperson  
NAN Greater Baltimore Chapter