

Committees: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

Testimony on: HB0063 - "Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System" cross filed with SB0188

Organization: B-W SCMaglev Strategy Group

Representative: Victoria Reynolds

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 12, 2021

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committees,

We represent a coalition of homeowners' associations and organizations who have been examining the B-W SCMaglev project for several years. We are writing in support of HB Bill 0063, sponsored by Delegate Nicole Williams. As we study the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project, we are alarmed at the economic and environmental toll this project will take on Maryland's resources, particularly those in the jurisdictions through which the SCMaglev will pass. Moreover, we also are dismayed that BWRR still fails to make a coherent, detailed business case for this project. For these reasons, we continue to support the "no-build" option and to urge Maryland lawmakers to hold BWRR financially accountable by passing HB0063.

Despite repeated requests, BWRR has not provided ridership data that would substantiate their continued claims for reduction in traffic with SCMaglev implementation. BWRR has not supplied the public with any specific studies, data, formulas, software programs, or modeling parameters that supports their claim that this is a financially feasible venture; this is a requirement for the current DEIS. In the DEIS, BWRR admits that the SCMaglev would be "a premium service at a higher fare, roughly seven times the cost of an existing MDOT MTA Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) commuter train fare between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City." So, many Marylanders, while experiencing the impact of the construction and operation of the SCMaglev, will realize no benefit from this risky, expensive endeavor.

As Senator Pinsky points out in his latest newsletter “while a potential MAGLEV line would be privately funded, under current law, the investors could ask the state for a bailout if they do not meet their profit projections. The bill (cf SB0188) will prohibit the state or any state-funded entity from funding any MAGLEV development. Instead we need to prioritize local transportation projects like Metro and MARC that are both economically and environmentally sustainable.” For these reasons, we urge you to support both HB 0063, Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System” cross filed with SB0188.

Thank you,

B-W SCMaglev Strategy Group
Citizens Against The SCMaglev (CATS)
Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN)
Woodlawn Community Association
Bladensburg Citizens Against the Maglev
Beacon Heights Citizens’ Association
East Pines Citizens’ Association
Kingswood Civic Association
Linthicum Shipley Improvement Association
Mayor of Landover Hills, Jeff Schomisch
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee