

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

UA STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602 TESTIMONY

HB63, State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

POSITION: OPPOSE / UNFAVORABLE

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

I hope that you, your families and staff are healthy and well.

On behalf of the UA Steamfitters Local 602, our 4,900 members and our 1,100 highly skilled Apprentices, we respectfully oppose HB63.

While we understand the valid concerns regarding protected properties in and around the proposed route of the Magnetic Levitation Transportation System (MAGLEV) project, we are committed to a vetting process that enables economically and environmentally responsible infrastructure, and that also serves the public interest.

While no federal funding has yet to be authorized or appropriated for the project, we were very grateful to President Obama for his support of a \$27.8 million Federal Railroad Administration grant for preliminary and ongoing engineering and environmental studies. If approved, this project would represent an unprecedented stimulative impact on the region, bringing some \$15 BILLION in regional investment, between 161,000 – 195,000 good-paying jobs, and an estimated \$10 BILLION in construction worker wages, and some 400 full-time operational jobs representing some \$25 million in annual worker wages after construction is completed.

In these extremely difficult economic times, I'm afraid that we simply cannot afford to miss an opportunity to realize this magnitude of economic empowerment, in a region that is as economically distressed as ours. In short, we have a rare and unprecedented opportunity before us. Let's not let it slip through our fingers.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for an unfavorable committee report.

Very truly yours,

Daniel W Loveless

Business Manager

DANIEL W. LOVELESS
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER

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