



Eastern Atlantic States
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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TESTIMONY

POSITION: OPPOSE / UNFAVORABLE

HB704 Land Use – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System Siting (Maryland Stop the Maglev Act of 2021)

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Dear Honorable Delegates:

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC), our 41,000 of the most skilled construction workers and apprentices in the nation, and including some 3,000 carpenters right here in the State of Maryland, please accept this letter in strong opposition to HB704.

We are extremely thankful for President Obama's award of \$27.8 million, through the FRA, to conduct the necessary Environmental Impact Study for this project, which is currently ongoing. If approved, this project would create thousands of good jobs, and bring billions of dollars in necessary construction and infrastructure stimulus to the region, at a time when Maryland workers and families desperately need those dollars for wages and governmental programs that help support and lift families into the Middle Class.

To be clear: The EASRCC recognizes many of the challenges and ongoing outreach and advocacy stumbles on behalf of the vendor in building the Magnetic Levitation Transportation System (MAGLEV) project, including poor communication and insensitivity addressing related land use and other community concerns. That's not any way to treat communities or lawmakers who represent the interests of those communities, along the proposed MAGLEV route from Baltimore to Washington. It's unacceptable, and the EASRCC shares many of the community's concerns. However, we so believe that these concerns can and must be fully addressed through a thoughtful and collaborative process of constructive engagement.

As workers, parents and active community leaders, our members strongly support the project because of the enormous economic and quality of life benefits that the project represents. Given that, the EASRCC stands ready and willing to begin that necessary and long-overdue process of constructive engagement, and we ask that this the General Assembly give us the opportunity to do that.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that this honorable committee give this legislation an unfavorable committee report.