



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



UNFAVORABLE

Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 11, 2021

RE: HB 704 – UNFAVORABLE – Land Use – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System Siting (Maryland Stop the Maglev Act of 2021)

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) and the Maryland Asphalt Association (“MAA”) collectively represent tens of thousands of Marylanders who operate in the areas of transportation construction, production and engineering. Together, for nearly 100 years these organizations have served as the voice of the transportation construction industry. The mission of both MTBMA and MAA is to encourage, develop, and protect the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry, and also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

As evidenced by the name, this piece of legislation would shut down the SCMAGLEV project from operating in Maryland. Our members strongly oppose such action. This train is the type of transportation project that not only represents jobs for our workers, but represents forward thinking, a cleaner environment, and transformational opportunities for millions along the Northeast Corridor. With the current state of our transportation system suffering from aging infrastructure and overly saturated highways, we are in desperate need of a broad solution. This legislation would be detrimental in our steps to move Maryland forward in both transportation and economic growth; which are even more paramount with the looming impacts of COVID-19.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this bill and ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on HB 704.

Sincerely,

Michael Sakata
President & CEO, MTBMA

Marshall Klinefelter
President, MAA