

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus

Chair, Prince George's
County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman

Chair of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

6 Bladen Street, Room 251

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 170

Good afternoon, Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and the members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams, and I will be testifying in favor of House Bill 170, also known as **State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System**. This bill would prohibit the state of Maryland from using appropriation for the magnetic levitation transportation system.

We understand that there are several oppositions to this bill and also understand the critical arguments to those concerns regarding the alleged benefits of the MAGLEV system. I want to begin by stating that we are not in opposition to innovation and rapid rail, but rather the idea that the state would pay our citizens tax dollars to develop this expensive train. We see the importance of creating a new and improved transportation system that would alleviate congestion in our current transportation system and cause individuals to travel more efficiently.

Furthermore, the train being proposed, the Northeast MAGLEV train, is the first of this type of technology to be built in the United States, alleging travel between Washington, D.C., and New York City. However, the only stop between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore will be BWI, meaning communities between the two cities will receive little benefit and may suffer irreparable harm once the train runs. Also, the lack of approvals from any of the other States along this proposed route shows that this proposal is not ready for prime time. Maryland taxpayers should not have to pay to help sponsor the construction of this private enterprise and company.

Our worry about not passing this bill is that the private company responsible for financing and constructing the MAGLEV train has yet to secure even half of its projected cost.

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They previously iterated that there would be no need to rely on state funding; however, what if this changes with the new predicted cost? By passing this legislation, we can hold them to their current promise. State funds could and should then be secured for other priorities, such as improving our current transportation system, improving our neighborhood safety, and bettering education systems.

Maryland citizens should not be held responsible for the funding.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.