



February 22, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB0079 —STATE FINANCE – PROHIBITED
APPROPRIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

As representatives of the Mt. Winans community of South Baltimore, we write to thoroughly express our condemnation of House Bill and our support for the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) project. We encourage the proposal of a South Baltimore SCMAGLEV station, as it represents investment, commitment, and growth within South Baltimore and beyond. House Bill 170 seeks to actively destroy these opportunities, hence our strong opposition to this bill.

The Mt. Winans community, and all other South Baltimore communities for that matter, stand to benefit greatly from this project. Not only would the SCMAGLEV be an important part of Baltimore's renaissance, but the project will highlight the strengths and abilities South Baltimore, specifically, has to offer. BWRR has been extremely communicative and cooperative in this process, and we look forward to continuing to develop community outreach activities and planning documents in order to best benefit Mt. Winans and South Baltimore communities as a whole.

Furthermore, BWRR has pledged to not request state funds, so we view House Bill 170 as simply unnecessary, and has the potential to block similarly innovative and future-oriented projects. This bill is simply not written with communities in mind and actively stands in the way of progress. We strongly urge the committee to submit an unfavorable report on House Bill 170.

Sincerely,

Angela Smothers

President, Mt. Winans Community Association