



Prince George's County Municipal Association
An Association of 27 Municipalities



January 29, 2024

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

Re: Support for HB 170

Dear Chairman Korman,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of House Bill 170 sponsored by Delegate Nicole Williams and cross filed in the Senate as Senate Bill 0079 State Finance-Prohibited Appropriations-Magnetic Levitation Transportation System.

We write on behalf of the 27 municipalities that make up the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which collectively represents more than 955,000 residents, to share our support of this bill. Our municipalities continue to share concerns with the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation System (SCMaglev) around the use of state funding for this effort. It is critical to our collective responsibility as elected officials to implement safeguards to protect Maryland taxpayers from unknown and unnecessary financial risks associated with this project. This is exactly what we are seeking by supporting HB106. If the SCMaglev does manage to proceed forward, we are asking for your support with ensuring that Maryland residents and taxpayers are never responsible for any costs associated with the development, operations, and maintenance of the SCMaglev. The project developer, Northeast Maglev, has communicated publicly in a variety of forums that this project will be privately funded and not rely on government funding. Additionally, there needs to be additional evaluation on the equity of

this and future projects as it relates to service, including stops in Prince George's County, and the impacts including environmental concerns.

PGCMA is asking you to help ensure the project developer keeps their word by moving this bill forward during the current legislative session. We also want to applaud Delegate Williams for seeking to codify this financial protection for Marylanders to ensure we are not left with the bills for this project at any time in the future.

Sincerely,

Melinda Mendoza

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PGCMA President

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