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**MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION**



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February 22, 2024

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 170 – UNFAVORABLE – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 170 prohibits the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation, or "maglev," transportation system located or to be located in the State, except for expenditures related to the salaries of personnel assigned to review permits or other forms of approval for such a transportation system.

MAA opposes House Bill 170 because it is a boldfaced attack on the SCMAGLEV project currently in development in the region. SCMAGLEV is the type of transportation project that represents well-paying jobs for our workers, a cleaner environment, and transformational mobility opportunities for millions along the Northeast Corridor. This legislation is a solution in search of a problem. It is an attempt to block not only a potential source of thousands of transportation construction jobs, but a potential source of opportunity and public good for so many.

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail has been working hand-in-hand with over thirty federal, State, and local agencies in the years-long process being led by the Federal Railroad Administration. To layer over this established process with a blanket prohibition against any State funding would be tantamount to stopping the SCMAGLEV project and would put in question the legal framework upon which all large-scale infrastructure projects rely.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 170.

Sincerely,

Tim E. Smith, P.E.  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association