

February 21, 2024

**HB0170**

The Honorable Mark Korman  
Chair, House Environment and  
Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Regina T. Boyce  
Vice Chair, House Environment and  
Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB0170 —STATE FINANCE – PROHIBITED  
APPROPRIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

Dear Chair Korman, Chair T. Boyce, and Members of the House Environment and  
Transportation Committees:

Ironworkers Local 5 wishes to voice its opposition to HB0170, a bill which prohibits the  
State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system.

We believe all possibilities for potential transportation infrastructure should be pursued  
in a region that is choking in its congestion. While the “dream” of a maglev may seem  
futuristic, the idea of promoting a bill that would completely prevent the State from ever  
using an advanced technology that has the potential of positive enhancements for our  
region and the Eastern seaboard is truly narrow-minded.

There has been no request for State funds that this bill aims to prevent, and any  
financial commitment by the State of Maryland would be handled by the existing system  
of budgetary checks and balances.

This is a project with possibilities, both in terms of transportation and in terms of  
economic development. Many jobs could be created, an outcome which our economy  
would certainly benefit from.

By supporting this obstructionist bill, Maryland announces its fear of innovation and its  
distrust of private investment in infrastructure. Certainly not the preferred message for  
our future generations. We urge you to oppose this bill which creates the image that  
Maryland is not open to economic progress.

We ask you to please vote UNFAVORABLE on this short-sighted bill which reflects the  
lack of long-range planning for our community’s future and that of the State. Thank you  
for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



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