



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:

Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MDHCC) was incorporated in the state of Maryland in 1986. Our organization aimed at developing a business network that would provide the Hispanic community with cohesion and strength. Since its inception, the MDHCC has worked towards bringing the issues and concerns of the state's thousands of Hispanic-owned businesses to the forefront of the state's economic agenda. The mission of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is to promote the establishment, growth, prosperity and retention of Hispanic businesses, and those entities, and persons that support them in the State of Maryland

On behalf of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's hundreds of member businesses and thousands of employees throughout the state, this letter is in opposition to HB0170 - State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System.

As this chamber is well-aware, the state is facing major budget shortfalls that will force leadership to make difficult choices about how to invest in Maryland's future. Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail have never asked the state for funds, meaning this bill addresses a non-existent issue. Why waste the legislature's time focused a on non-issue when there are clearly more pressing matters to attend to?



Furthermore, this legislation has not changed from prior appearances before this committee. Passage of this obstructionist legislation would make a strong statement about Maryland – that State leadership is closed to innovation.

We believe the State and the region should be open to any and all ideas that seek to ameliorate our pressing problem of congestion, which threatens our economy's growth on a daily basis. Large-scale investments in our state should be encouraged as they provide substantial jobs and enhancement to the economic health of our business community.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marco V. Ávila, P.E." with a horizontal line underneath.

Marco V. Ávila, P.E.

President/CEO & Chairman of the Board
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
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