



February 20, 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, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committees:

Since 2006 Root Branch Media has served the DMV, offering services in video production, creative development, motion graphics, branded content, storyboarding, casting, cinematography, photography, sound design, graphic, and web design. We are most notably known for our Film Academy, providing film and digital media arts instruction to youth in grades K - 12 in partnership with school districts and youth organizations throughout our region. Our mission is to give students (particularly students of color) the voice they deserve and the chance to use media in a meaningful way that rewrites the narrative of how they are seen in and depicted by the media.

This bill will limit the State's ability to ever invest in any magnetic levitation transportation technology - not just this project. As important as the greater Washington D.C. region is to us, we recognize that a project like this is important to people beyond just the Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia areas. It represents job opportunities, business opportunities, and community growth and development opportunities for millions along the Northeast Corridor. It represents a future with less pollution and traffic, and with an emphasis on creation of career opportunities and workforce development. This project will invest money back into our local communities, providing a substantial and lasting effect on our region's economy. We want to be a part of this future.

This bill is an attempt to needlessly block the potential for growth and opportunity for so many, and we ask that you submit an unfavorable report. We urge the Maryland Legislature to not set a precedent by using legislation on behalf of a few to unfairly limit a potential good for many.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vonnya Pettigrew, CEO
Root Branch Media Group

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**S O C I A L
M E D I A**
RootBranchMG

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