

February 20, 2024

HB0170

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chairman, Environment and
Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB0170 State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation
Transportation System

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation and
Chair Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee

My name is Mike Tidwell, Director of Chesapeake Action Network and I wish to share
my opposition to HB0170. Additionally, I'm expressing my strong support for the
Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail high-speed rail project that will connect Baltimore to
Washington D.C. in 15 minutes.

The mission of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) is to build a diverse
movement powerful enough to put our region on the path to climate stability, while using
our proximity to the nation's capital to inspire action in neighboring states, around the
country, and across the world. CCAN is the largest and oldest grassroots organization
dedicated exclusively to fighting for bold and just solutions to climate change in the
Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. We also know that a
vibrant democracy is central to our success and we work to defend democratic integrity
wherever we can.

We envision an economy where energy efficiency and truly clean sources of power
sustain every aspect of our lives and dirty fossil fuels are phased out; where all
communities share equitably in the promise of a clean and healthy environment; where
millions of family-sustaining jobs form the backbone of our economy; and where we've
kept the increase in the global average temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius,
protecting the most vulnerable communities in our region and the world from the worst
impacts of climate change.

As we build this movement, and work together to keep global temperatures from rising,
we know that some climate impacts are already locked in. These impacts are felt most
by those least responsible for them. That's why we're also helping the communities in
our region already experiencing the terrifying impacts of climate change to adapt to a
warming planet.

Now that world governments, including our own, have begun to make commitments that match the scale of the problem, we're making sure we do our part right here in the Chesapeake region. We'll continue to build a people-powered movement for bold and just solutions to climate change in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, and on Capitol Hill, while also acting as "first-responders" to federal action on the climate crisis and inspiring climate action across the country.

Again, we oppose HB0170 and support the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) the developer behind the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) train and soundly reject efforts by others to oppose its successful development through unwise legislation. We urge you to reject this Bill.

Thank you,

Mike Tidwell

Mike Tidwell, Director
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