

ALONZO T. WASHINGTON
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

November 11th, 2023

Secretary Serena McIlwain,
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

RE: Maglev Opposition Comments Draft

Dear Secretary McIlwain,

I am writing to request that you deny the water quality certification request of the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Project. My constituents in Maryland's 22nd district and I continue to strongly oppose this project, as we have for many years.

This project poses significant risks to our environment that cannot be overlooked. The project would be built on the Anacostia and Patuxent River watersheds, both of which have "high quality" waters that would be polluted by runoff from the construction on this project. I hope that the MDE would agree that the construction of this scale puts the health of the Chesapeake Bay at unnecessary risk that would be avoided by denying water quality certification.

As we strive to make Maryland a leader in the fight against climate change, we must consider the question: Do we want to spend billions of dollars and pollute our precious Chesapeake Bay just to save 15 minutes on the commute from D.C. to Baltimore?

Additionally, the proposed project would cut straight through my district in Prince George's County and yet none of my constituents would be able to easily access its' benefits since there would be no station in the county. We are also concerned about the level of noise pollution that would be generated by the construction of this project in our neighborhoods. Constant noise from both the construction and the rail would devalue our properties and negatively impact the health of our community members.

Throughout my over ten years representing Prince George's County, my constituents have contacted me thousands of times to state their concerns about this ridiculously costly and unnecessary project. The SCMAGLEV project would benefit the wealthy elites in D.C. while the environmental, economic, and

health costs would be borne by the people of Prince George's county. For this reason, I once again request that you deny the water quality certification of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alonzo T. Washington'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator Alonzo T. Washington &
Prince George's County Residents