

## From the Desk of Joseph Gaskins

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November 16, 2023

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Water Quality Certification

Greetings:

My name is Joseph Gaskins a resident of the State of Maryland and it is my pleasure to register my support for the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail's (BWRR) application for Water Quality Certification. I have over forty years of corporate leadership experience. Consisting of project development, business development, engineering and construction, non-profit, and advocacy. I am a civil engineer, attended Howard University, School of Engineering, Washington DC; and the University of the District of Columbia, School of Engineering.

My corporate positions begin as an engineer for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority with Deleuw Cather Engineering and Consultants designing the Green Line of the Subway, and my next stop included positions as an Engineer-Designer and Department Director, with an international engineering firm; designing bridges, noise barriers, radio frequency shields and retaining walls throughout the nation.

I has been involved in the for profit space as President and CEO, since 1983. He entered into the world of non-profits in 1998, as Executive Director of Economic Development and Training Institute, as a business and affordable housing developer empowering minority businesses and other non-profits entities. I created the Biz Center Renewable Green Incubator, the first small MBE business incubator and virtual office space concept of its type in the State of Maryland.

As America moves to this space where energy efficiency and truly clean sources of power become a dominate part of every aspect of our lives, we are forced for the survival of mankind to transform into a world that must shed itself of dreadful coal and fossil fuels. This BWRR project is an important part of this transition. All communities deserve not just the promise of clean energy but the delivery of clean energy jobs, projects and a healthy environmental friendly transportation.

I support the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) the developer behind the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) train. Their goal is to build a ultra-high-speed rail system along the United States' Northeast Corridor. The first phase would be constructed between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. with a stop at Thurgood Marshall/BWI Airport. At 311mph, the SCMAGLEV will connect the major cities and airports along the corridor. Ultimately, the system will provide reliable high-speed transportation between Washington, D.C. and New York City in just one hour.

BWRR has committed that the project will follow both Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Maryland stormwater management guidelines for Federal Projects and has committed to design the stormwater management system to meet Maryland Department of the Environment regulations. The project as proposed will meet state water quality standards by following MDE standards for Erosion & Sediment Control practices and the design minimizes and avoids environmental impacts as much as possible.

As proposed 70% of the alignment is underground and the above ground guideway is a viaduct which has minor periodic impacts from the foundations, while traditional rail projects have continuous impacts. BWRR has committed to a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan that will positively impact communities adjacent to the Project by ensuring that at least 40% of the construction workforce will be from diverse populations; at least 25% of construction spending will be with MBEs and WBEs; and, at least 25% of permanent jobs will be from minority or women populations.

I believe BWRR, per their application, have committed to adhere to Federal and local regulations to minimize the BWRR's impact on our waterways. This project allows us to expand our transit options, while creating economic opportunities for thousands in our state as well.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Gaskins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph Gaskins  
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