



Greetings,

My name is Mike Tidwell, Director of Chesapeake Action Network and I wish to express my support of Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail's (BWRR) application for Water Quality Certification.

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.

We support the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) the developer behind the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) train. Their goal is to build an 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.

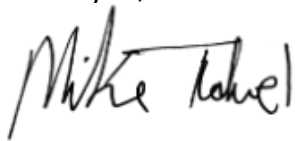
BWRR has committed that the project will follow both Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Maryland stormwater management guidelines for Federal Projects and has committed to designing the stormwater management system to meet Maryland Department of the Environment regulations. The project as proposed 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 that 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.

As the Social and Economic Justification report noted in its conclusion, “although SCMAGLEV will impact Tier II watersheds, these impacts will result in significant social and economic benefits that will outweigh the current benefit of affected Tier II waters.” The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) shows SCMAGLEV will remove millions of car trips from roads, reducing regional Vehicle Miles Traveled by 9 to 12% by 2045. The DEIS predicts this will result in improved air quality and reductions in toxic emissions.

We believe BWRR, per their application, has committed to adhere to Federal and local regulations to minimize the maglev’s impact on our waterways. This project represents an opportunity for us to expand not only our transit options but economic opportunities for thousands in our state as well. It's rare for such an opportunity to come along, and I urge MDE to approve BWRR’s application. Doing so would demonstrate that expanding transit options, and economic opportunity in an environmentally responsible manner is, in fact, possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Tidwell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Tidwell, Director  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network