

Governor Larry Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland
21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

It is my understanding that there is an interest in the HyperLoop as a means of transportation in the state of Maryland. The proposed ideas I have read are oriented towards the transportation of people. While this is a laudable idea, it does not appear to be ready yet nor at the technical state to warrant much investment.¹ However, this HyperLoop technology, one that is being implemented overseas and could make Maryland, and particularly the port of Baltimore a national leader. That would be to use this HyperLoop technology for the transport of freight.

Firstly, transporting freight does not face some of the same technical hurdles faced by transporting people. Freight can be packaged in a fashion that can achieve the high speeds achievable in a hyper loop whereas people cannot yet.

Secondly, things can and will go wrong with this technology. It is being discussed as designed in a fashion that would make it hard for humans to escape in an emergency. A loss of life could really damage the potential for this technology. However, a loss of freight shipment won't face the same backlash.

Thirdly, Baltimore is unique among east coast ports. While it will face climate impacts, it will not face nearly the same impacts that New York, Newport News, Boston, etc will from sea level rise.

² Positioning Baltimore as a leader in freight imports is vital.

Fourthly, freight is much more challenging to reduce emissions from through electrification. Solutions abound for the zeroing out emissions to light duty vehicles, but heavy-duty truck traffic, especially long-haul, is nearly impossible to zero out.

I envision for our stage a series of HyperLoops going from the port of Baltimore to other major east coast cities with Washington being a start. This would create a high speed, emissions free, safe, and resilient freight transport network with Baltimore as a main hub and Maryland as the

¹ "Not quite Hyper: The Boring Company's DC-Baltimore "Loop" would move just 2,000 people per day." April 19, 2019.

<https://ggwash.org/view/71811/not-quite-hyper-the-boring-cos-dc-baltimore-loop-would-move-just-2000-people-per-day>

² "These U.S. Cities Are Most Vulnerable to Major Coastal Flooding and Sea Level Rise." October 25, 2017.

<https://www.climatecentral.org/news/us-cities-most-vulnerable-major-coastal-flooding-sea-level-rise-21748>

leader ushering in the future. And as the now chair of the National Governors Association you can bring this vision to the nation.

I hope that you consider this idea as you work to bring the HyperLoop to Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph Jakuta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Joseph Jakuta
4113 29th Street
Mount Rainier, MD 20712