

Dear Board:

As noted on my post on Ottawa County Public Square: “I want to thank Commissioner Rhodea for bringing up the topic of energy security at today's Board meeting and to thank Commissioner Cosby for following it up by commending the "Save The Campbell" Plan (around 2:33:00) and passing it along for study to Paul Sachs, Director of Strategic Impact. The commissioners are demonstrating they take this issue very seriously and are weighing it carefully. Meanwhile, I am also thankful for the positive feedback I am receiving from Township leaders and citizens regarding the "Save The Campbell" Plan.”<sup>[1]</sup>

In recent weeks I have had opportunity to speak with many electric utility insiders, and they tell me off the record what Wolverine said on the record: “... the premature closure of Campbell jeopardizes Michigan’s ability to keep the lights on, particularly at a time when our state faces rolling blackouts due to disorderly plant retirements...”<sup>[2]</sup>

Also recently I have been walking around my Jenison neighborhood to find out what the average guy thinks on the topic. With almost no exception, they are unaware there is this electric generating plant supplying electric for 1 million customers that is closing down next year. When I do explain, they are concerned about the implications and receptive to the "Save The Campbell" Plan.<sup>[3]</sup> At some point I will be providing you with the names of supporters, to help you see there is broad support for assuming local control of the Campbell plant so it is not demolished but keeps supplying us with reliable electric.

We are sending informational emails to Township leaders around the county. We are starting to receive positive feedback from Township leaders, such as this one from the Georgetown Township Supervisor Jim Wierenga:

“Joseph

Thank you for sharing this information with us. Personally, I share your concern about this power plant being taken offline under the green energy push by CP. Their pledge was to go renewable by 2040 and now they want to retire this plant 15 years before that. I don’t like it. I expect the Ottawa County Commissioners are in the better place to address this matter, but please feel free to provide information to keep us informed as a Township. I expect individual board members could sign petitions and the like. I plan to. If there is more you think we could do (without assuming consensus at this point by our board) or that you feel we should know, feel free to keep us informed.

Regards,

Jim

Jim Wierenga | Supervisor”

Georgetown Township Trustee Gary Veldink and Clerk Ryan Kidd are seeking ways for the Georgetown Township Board to help build public support for stopping its closure.

Unfortunately, because the Campbell plant is being precipitously and unadvisedly closed in May 2025, in my opinion stopping its closure requires an extremely aggressive timetable:

1. Very soon the Ottawa County Board needs to decide to put on a May 2024 ballot of County voters the question of electing a commission to frame a charter. The rationale: give the citizens of Ottawa County the choice for more local control, including on the important issue of their electric security and the Campbell plant
2. May 2024 - citizens vote whether to elect a charter commission and move forward to get more local control
3. August 2024 - citizens vote on who will be on that charter commission
4. Charter commission drafts charter and submits to Governor for review. The charter includes a provision under the Public Utilities section which municipalizes electric service not already municipalized by certain cities in the County and transfers its management and title to the Campbell plant to a member-owned electric cooperative of County residents without current municipalization
5. November 2024 - citizens vote on whether to adopt the County charter that was drafted by the charter commission
6. County leaders and the newly formed electric cooperative engage Consumers Energy in discussions regarding municipalization and purchase of the Campbell plant from Consumers Energy, such that title transfer occurs before May 2025. There will also need to be discussions with State officials and working out an agreed upon timetable for the Campbell plant.

Certain State leaders put us in this bind by pressuring Consumers Energy to close it so prematurely, when Consumers Energy before had wanted and thought it prudent not to close until 2040.

I will try to keep you apprised of developments on this topic, along with a local media campaign being planned. Thanks so much for your willingness to consider this important topic. I think this is a case where inaction has more risks than action. Once that plant is closed and demolished, it will be significantly harder and more expensive to get back the energy security which was lost.

Sincerely,

J. Parnell McCarter  
Citizens Consulting Group, LLC  
Jenison, MI

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ottawacountypublicsquare/permalink/370424475582291/?mibextid=c7yyfP>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.craingsgrandrapids.com/news/energy/breach-of-contract-dispute-surrounds-early-closure-plan-for-ottawa-co-coal-plant/>

<sup>[3]</sup> <https://savethecampbell.com/>