

## **Speech Before the Ottawa County Board on 01-30-2024 To “Save The Campbell”**

Reliable, affordable, environmental electric power is something that should unite us all, but the agenda being imposed upon us by Gov. Whitmer fails on all 3 counts. The agenda calls for May 2025 closure and then demolition of the County’s Campbell plant which provides electric for 1 million regional consumers before there is even an adequate reliable replacement. This is part of the long-term agenda of off-lining reliable sources like coal and hydroelectric for ones unreliable in Michigan like solar, wind, and battery storage units. Experts indicate the grid is already at an elevated risk level, and the Whitmer agenda significantly increases the risk. Not only so, it is making energy significantly less affordable. Coal-generated electricity is much less expensive than solar or wind, and is even less expensive than natural gas. This agenda is even environmentally disastrous. Over the last decade \$1 billion dollars was invested in making Campbell significantly less polluting with the intention of keeping it open to 2040. In contrast, there is no good plan for disposing all of the Chinese-made solar panels with toxic chemicals, and large battery storage units are fraught with environmental and operational hazards. Furthermore, over 200,000 more acres of Michigan farmland will be wasted on solar farms, and Whitmer’s legislation has overthrown the ability of towns to control it by zoning. It is great for China though, because we buy their solar panels and we will weigh down our manufacturing and agriculture with high cost, unreliable electric.

The “Save the Campbell” campaign, which people can read about at [SaveTheCampbell.com](http://SaveTheCampbell.com), is a grassroots effort by a growing group of West Michigan citizens to stop the May 2025 closure of the Campbell plant via a home rule charter which brings more local control on this and other issues. Local control via the home rule charter is the only legal, effective way to stop the closure of the Campbell plant.

The County can initiate attaining a charter by getting 5% of County electors to sign a petition to put the question on the ballot.

I would encourage all County citizens go to [SaveTheCampbell.com](http://SaveTheCampbell.com) and select the menu option at top “Add My Name as Petition Signer”. We are gathering a database of signers to sign petition forms so we get local control on the ballot. We are also using it to help gather signatures for Citizens For Local Choice so that Townships can get back control of zoning in order to thwart exploitation.

Go to [SaveTheCampbell.com](http://SaveTheCampbell.com) to become a petition signer and get much useful information.

We need to obtain more local control so that Washington, DC and Lansing do not impose a misguided agenda on us that makes us the losers and Communist China the winner.

Let’s pray that God blesses this effort, for He alone is sovereign.