

## **Speech Before the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners on 02-29-2024 by Joseph P. McCarter**

Board and Citizens of Ottawa County, in the Campbell plant we have a source of reliable, affordable, environmental electric, and if we are resolute, with the Lord's blessing, we can stop it from being closed and demolished next year. SaveTheCampbell.com's plan is the only secure way that has been presented to stop its closing: becoming a home rule charter county and using its legal authority to place the Campbell in an electric cooperative. Quoting from my rebuttal to Doug Van Essen's editorial in the Holland Sentinel:

"The charter would simply be a county level constitution the citizens could approve or reject. It would give the county more local control at a time when the UN, Federal Government, and State Government are all imposing a misguided agenda. It should both acknowledge Almighty God like our Michigan Constitution and include a Bill of Rights like the Federal Constitution. One primary practical use of the charter would be to stop the closure of the county's Campbell plant which provides electric to 1 million regional customers at a time the grid is already at an elevated risk level... The county administrator... [would be] elected by the citizens and subject to recall, as well as subject to impeachment by the Board ... These features of accountability should be built into the county charter."

Part of the plan too is using various legal measures to postpone closure and demolition in order that necessary study can take place, as communicated to the Board and other parties in a recent communication.

The main alternative to keeping the Campbell open is re-opening the Palisades nuclear plant which was closed a few years ago because of cost overruns and equipment failures. Its current owner, Holtec, has the worst record in the nuclear industry for criminal and ethical violations. It is downright dangerous that Holtec would be entrusted to the tremendously challenging task of re-opening the old Palisades plant when no closed nuclear plant in US history has been re-opened. Yet this multi-billion dollar project, likely to become a financial and environmental fiasco, is what Gov. Whitmer and Rep. Huizenga want to replace the reliable and affordable Campbell plant.

I recommend all here go to SaveTheCampbell.com and read more of why the Palisades and other options are bad ones.

"Save the Campbell" is making good progress in getting the 12,000 petition signers needed to get our plan on the ballot. Ideally we will get the petitions turned in by April 30 so it can be on the August ballot. Please go to SaveTheCampbell.com and register as a petition signer. If Ottawa County citizens are resolute, we can stop the closure and demolition.

"We've got a long way to go, and a short time to get there", but with the Lord's blessing, "we gonna do what they say can't be done."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Words from Jerry Reed's "East Bound and Down". See <https://genius.com/Jerry-reed-east-bound-and-down-lyrics> .