

## **The Moral Case for County Intervention In the Campbell Plant**

**by Joseph Parnell McCarter**

The Federal Government and State of Michigan are engaged in a misguided and unethical policy of forced closure and demolition of reliable, affordable, and environmental sources of electric power like the Campbell Generating Plant in Ottawa County and substituting for it alternatives which fail in all three of these measures. They are even pressuring closure before the replacements are adequately in place, at a time the grid is already at an elevated risk level. They are thus engaged in “withdrawing the lawful and necessary means of preservation of life”, for reliable, affordable electric power in a modern society is a life or death matter, especially in northern climates and given economic realities. They are pressuring companies like Consumers Energy to adopt the ESG agenda, including its warped energy policy, and Consumers Energy is going along so long as their investors are not hurt.

This is not right. To give an analogy, a pilot of an airplane may not quit mid-flight, and thus endanger the lives of passengers and crew, on the erroneous premise that he may quit the job whenever he wants. At the very least in such a situation the pilot must make sure there is in place a replacement before just quitting mid-flight, and Consumers Energy must be willing to sell its Campbell plant to some other party if it does not want to continue to operate it starting in 2025. Dependent parties must not be left endangered by reckless actions of a supplier, parent, government, etc., especially when there are ways to exit that do not so endanger the lives of dependent parties.

Furthermore, what has happened in this case is that Consumers Energy, and the State of Michigan which has been pressuring Consumers Energy, have broken contractual and fiduciary obligations to Wolverine Power, its consumers, and other parties in closing the Campbell plant in 2025 contrary to its earlier promises to keep the plant operating long past 2025. It is not morally or legally right to renege on such promises. Wolverine Power, the consumers, etc. expended billions of dollars on the premise that the Campbell plant would be open long after 2025, based on statements made by Consumers Energy to them. The unethical Settlement Agreement which Consumers Energy agreed to with the State of Michigan left its investors fully compensated but many other parties shafted. As Wolverine has stated in its lawsuit with Consumers Energy over this issue, “Consumers’ reckless actions in effectuating an early retirement of Campbell 3 in 2025 not only jeopardizes the reliable supply of electricity throughout rural Michigan, but also significantly damages Wolverine for Consumers’ benefit.” Wolverine further adds: “The company added that while 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, this case is about Consumers’ actions in breach of the contract and the resulting damage to Wolverine’s 260,000+ members.” Wolverine adds in its response to the

initial suit that Consumers made the decision to close Campbell in 2025 “in bad faith and without cooperating or consulting with Wolverine.”<sup>1</sup>

Under these circumstances, the lesser magistrate (specifically, the County Government) has a duty to interpose on behalf of the citizens, thus “protecting and defending the innocent”. As a home rule charter county, Ottawa County would have legal authority to municipalize the Campbell plant and place it in an electric cooperative, giving Consumers Energy fair market value for the plant it otherwise would have demolished due to unjust pressure from the State of Michigan and unethical acquiescence to such pressure. These are implications of the Sixth Commandment which condemns murder and commends preservation of life.

In his book *The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates*, minister Matthew Trewhella explains the historic Biblical Christian understanding that “when the superior or higher civil authority makes an unjust/immoral law or decree, the lesser or lower ranking civil authority has both the right and duty to refuse obedience to that superior authority. If necessary, the lower authority may even actively resist the superior authority. Historically, this doctrine was practiced before the time of Christ and Christianity. It was Christian men, however, who formalized and embedded it into their political institutions throughout Western Civilization.”<sup>2</sup> This echoes what theologian John Calvin wrote regarding the Biblical duty of such lesser magistrates. Of course, such lesser magistrates should strive as much as possible to do it within the confines of legal procedure. Furthermore, the USA’s founding Christian constitutional order, which has been progressively and illegally dismantled, is bottom-up and not top-down, giving legal authority at the consent of the governed, and not to a globalist elite.<sup>3</sup> Counties neither have to nor should prostrate to higher level policies and practices which endanger the lives of their citizens. There is legal and moral justification to “Save The Campbell”.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crainsgrandrapids.com/news/energy/breach-of-contract-dispute-surrounds-early-closure-plan-for-ottawa-co-coal-plant/> . See also <https://www.law360.com/energy/articles/1809433/electric-co-must-face-claim-it-kept-coal-partner-in-the-dark>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Doctrine-Lesser-Magistrates-Resistance-Repudiation/dp/1482327686>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.amazon.com/Return-Articles-Confederation-Rebuttal-Christian/dp/B0C7SZBQFV/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=HRBP43Z9JS2W&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.RTDUZP4SftevqT1cxZ-9UDRIFGipQXB093nIxguR-Po.KuiI9MQi\\_UuZc720KASZF49qA-fu8M6Zbb9PrO\\_Xtj0&dib\\_tag=se&keywords=return+to+the+articles+of+confederation&qid=1709658315&sprefix=return+to+the+ar%2Caps%2C96&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Return-Articles-Confederation-Rebuttal-Christian/dp/B0C7SZBQFV/ref=sr_1_1?crid=HRBP43Z9JS2W&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.RTDUZP4SftevqT1cxZ-9UDRIFGipQXB093nIxguR-Po.KuiI9MQi_UuZc720KASZF49qA-fu8M6Zbb9PrO_Xtj0&dib_tag=se&keywords=return+to+the+articles+of+confederation&qid=1709658315&sprefix=return+to+the+ar%2Caps%2C96&sr=8-1)

<sup>4</sup> <https://savethecampbell.com/>