

## **Our Current Michigan Energy Policy: Getting to Florida From Michigan By Way Of Oregon**

Any honest assessment of the current situation with our electric grid recognizes we have a real problem in terms of reliability, sufficiency, and cost, due to the combination of trying to offline supply sources like the Campbell coal plant (which provides electric for over 1 million regional users) while at the same time experiencing rising electric demand for data centers, EV cars, etc. The simple solution is to delay off-lining plants like Campbell. But, no, Michigan policymakers are insistent upon closing and demolishing the Campbell in 2025 while pursuing costly, inadequate and questionable alternative methods to provide replacement supply, whether a large solar farm in Muskegon or rushing to improve transmission lines from faraway places (see <https://www.fastcompany.com/91129900/the-outdated-power-grid-is-nearing-a-crisis-point-heres-how-to-prevent-it> ). This is like traveling to Florida from Michigan by way of Oregon. Sure, it is possible, but it is a waste of time and money, and places the whole trip more at risk. The citizens of Ottawa County will be the main ones hurt by this misguided energy policy.

But the citizens of Ottawa County have it within our legal grasp to force policymakers into practical reality. We can convert Ottawa County into a charter county, buy the Campbell plant from Consumers Energy and place it into a county electric cooperative, and make sure it continues to operate well past 2025. That is a bottom-up (“Antifederalist”) way to approach this problem, since the top-down (“Federalist”) structure is locked into an impractical way. Sure, we may get to Florida from Michigan by way of Oregon, but is that really a convoluted trip we want to make? Let’s “Save The Campbell” and enjoy an efficient trip to our destination.