

## **Speech Before the Georgetown Township Board on 08/12/2024**

What if I came before this Board and told you that tomorrow we should demolish this fine campus of buildings and move its offices and library into an old dilapidated shack with water leaks and other problems? I think you would look at me and say I had lost my mind. Yet the planned 2025 closure and demolition of the county's Campbell plant combined with rapid 2025 re-start of Holtec's Palisades nuclear plant is far more dangerous and economically wasteful. We are talking about reckless to the tune of billions of dollars, and even potentially risking the lives of many West Michiganders.

The former lead engineer at Palisades has gone public that it is unfit for quick restart, saying: "I'm pro-nuclear, but they selected the wrong horse to ride to town on." In contrast, the Campbell plant is demonstrably safe, reliable and affordable to operate, as it is showing right now in the way it operates. It is hard to believe the Michigan Public Service Commission has approved the current plan; hopefully we can persuade them and the other relevant parties to delay its implementation.

Hundreds of Ottawa County citizens have signed "Save The Campbell" petitions towards making us a charter county so we may get local control of our electric utilities and save the Campbell plant from 2025 closure and demolition. I still believe that should be our long term goal, but what I am asking this Board and the other boards of Ottawa County, now is simply to sign a letter requesting the Michigan Public Service Commission, Consumers Energy, and other relevant parties to delay the closure and demolition of the Campbell plant, and to re-consider rapid re-start of Holtec's Palisades plant. This request is fully consistent with our electric grid operator MISO's recommendation "to delay resource retirements to reliably manage the anticipated growth in electricity demand." "MISO and the Organization of MISO States released the annual OMS-MISO survey results, which indicate a growing capacity deficit beginning in the 2025/26 planning year." The most expert entity on our regional grid is thus recommending what I am asking this board to request.

In order to accomplish this request, I would ask this Board to put it on the agenda of the earliest Utilities meeting possible, and pass it on to the Board to approve. I have provided to each Board member the draft letter that is available at the [SaveTheCampbell.com](https://savethecampbell.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/request-to-delay-the-closure-of-Campbell-plant.pdf) website (at <https://savethecampbell.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/request-to-delay-the-closure-of-Campbell-plant.pdf> ).

Thanks so much for your consideration of this request.

Joseph Parnell McCarter  
Georgetown Township, MI