

Speech Before the Jamestown Township Board on 08/19/2024

I am from neighboring Georgetown Township and lead the “Save the Campbell” effort. Indications from the Georgetown Township Board are that they will likely be passing what I am also requesting of this Jamestown Township Board.

The planned 2025 closure and demolition of the county’s Campbell electric generating plant, combined with rapid 2025 re-start of Holtec’s Palisades nuclear plant to try to make up for it, is 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 reliably, safely, and affordably provides electric for 1 million regional residents. 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 appreciate how even some on this Jamestown Board have helped in that effort. 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.” Here is another quote from MISO: “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 and approve signing the requested letter. 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