

September 6, 2024

Dear Board:

The coming vacancy of the County administrator position and the planned 2025 closure/demolition of the Campbell plant reintroduces the question of whether Ottawa County voters should be given the opportunity to decide whether they would like a home rule county charter with an elected administrator and more local control over electric utilities. Hundreds of county citizens have signed petitions seeking such a county charter, especially to save the Campbell plant. The County Board has the ability to give the voters an opportunity to decide.

County township boards are also giving me indications they support efforts to stop the precipitous closure of the Campbell plant. For example, please see:

- <https://savethecampbell.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Speech-Before-the-Jamestown-Township-Board-on-08-19-2024.pdf>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/4Ngu1psrrYmJKB6Y/>

DTE is not scheduled to close the Monroe plant until 2032, and Ottawa County needs to send Consumers Energy a unified message that it should not close the Campbell plant any sooner than that. A long-term relationship with a public utility is a two-way street, and Consumers Energy needs to understand that in no uncertain terms should it move in a direction with Campbell that the citizens of Ottawa County oppose.

A county charter could incorporate provisions allowing the Board to originate all spending bills, allow the Board to override an elected administrator's veto, and enable the Board to impeach the elected administrator. It could also incorporate a provision for a trial period with the home rule charter, such that in a few years it would expire without a re-approval of the Board to allow a vote and a re-vote of the County voters.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Joseph Parnell McCarter
Georgetown Township, MI
SaveTheCampbell.com