

## Save The Campbell: Follow the Trump Energy Plan, Not the Whitmer Energy Plan

The Campbell coal plant in Ottawa County, Michigan provides reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electric to one million regional residents.<sup>1</sup> Over \$1 billion was invested in its anti-polluting equipment in the last decade so it could remain open to 2040.<sup>2</sup> But despite this, the Whitmer-appointed Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and Consumers Energy executives plan to close and demolish this plant in 2025. They quickly rebuffed the many township and county board resolutions calling for closure delay.<sup>3</sup> Its precipitous closure follows the Democrat party energy playbook of Whitmer. Fossil fuel plants, and especially coal plants, are slated for rapid closure.

In contrast, President Trump's energy emergency executive order recognizes the need for fossil fuels in electric generation, including coal. They provide the reliability and affordability necessary for our electric baseload. They are important to power the AI data center technological revolution for our national security and industrial development.

Whitmer's energy agenda being executed by Consumers Energy is very dangerous:

1. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), along with grid operator MISO, states that our regional grid is at high risk of demand exceeding generating supply in the coming years due to rapid closure of coal plants without sufficient reliable baseload replacement.<sup>4</sup>
2. Canadian officials are threatening to cut off sales of electric and gas in response to US tariffs, or at least to raise its pricing.<sup>5</sup>
3. Solar and wind are not reliable baseload replacements for coal in Michigan according to grid operator MISO,<sup>6</sup> combined with the fact that the Trump Administration has placed a freeze on their Federal subsidy, which they depend on.<sup>7</sup>
4. Restarting the shutdown Palisades nuclear reactor was always hugely risky given there has never been such in US history, and the various problems with that reactor, but it is even more questionable given the Trump Administration has placed a freeze on its Federal subsidy, which it depends on to the tune of billions of dollars.<sup>8</sup>

Other factors to consider are these:

1. Consumers Energy customers already pay 58% more than Zeeland residents who have municipalized electric.<sup>9</sup>
2. Consumers Energy is a monopoly and knows its customers cannot readily move to an alternative provider.
3. The MPSC/Consumers plan is in direct violation of President Trump's national energy emergency executive order which says not to rapidly close fossil fuel plants. That plan would allow us to charge a data center lots for electric, so that ordinary consumer electric rates could be decreased.<sup>10</sup>

SaveTheCampbell.com requests:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/lakeshore/what-will-happen-to-the-jh-campbell-plant/69-522203712>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/lakeshore/what-will-happen-to-the-jh-campbell-plant/69-522203712>

<sup>3</sup> <https://restoreottawa.substack.com/p/save-the-campbell-resolution>

<sup>4</sup> <https://americaspower.org/nerc-issues-an-urgent-warning-on-grid-reliability/#:~:text=The%20North%20American%20Electric%20Reliability,demand%20driven%20by%20data%20centers%2C> and <https://www.misoenergy.org/meet-miso/media-center/2024/oms-miso-survey-results-indicate-tight-resource-capacity-in-the-upcoming-planning-year/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/03/04/ontario-canada-tariff-retaliation-energy-states/81350351007/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/Wind%20and%20Solar%20Capacity%20Credit%20Report%20PY%202024-2025632351.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mlive.com/environment/2025/02/156m-michigan-low-income-solar-program-in-trump-freeze-limbo.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2025-02-11/environment/palisades-nuclear-reopening-in-doubt-after-trumps-spending-freeze/a95186-1>

<sup>9</sup> <https://zeelandbpw.com/vote/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-should-restart-shuttered-coal-units-interior-secretary-tells-bloomberg-2025-03-10/>

1. Ottawa County government and the Trump Administration work together and legally intervene on behalf of the Campbell plant, consistent with President Trump's executive order.

2. The Ottawa County Board, with the support of the Trump Administration, pass a public safety ordinance prohibiting the closure of the Campbell in 2025. The Michigan constitution gives our county Commissioners power to protect residents from a public utility that plans a project that will hurt the long-term welfare of its customers in service and pricing.

At the same time we request investigation into long-term possibilities for local and regional electric cooperatives to purchase Consumers Energy's interest in the Campbell plant, with the assistance of the Trump Administration. Ottawa County can expand its electric generation to help power Michigan and the AI revolution.