

To: Marshall Township Board

Subject: Letter for Inclusion in the February 20, 2023 PA 425 Public Hearing

I write here to again request that the Marshall Township Board deny all the PA 425 land transfers presented to it for a Mega-Site for Heavy Industrial use. I applaud Dave Bosserd for standing with the township residents, which are overwhelmingly opposed to this transfer for Heavy Industrial use.

As you have been told by a great majority of residents, this transfer to the City of Marshall will be a great loss to Marshall Township. We will lose:

- Property tax revenue we now have with the current farm and residential land.
- Good fertile farmland, that cannot be economically or feasibly be replaced.
- Historic buildings and the small rural community feel we currently have.
- Control of the zoning and upkeep of these properties to the City of Marshall that has failed to add, and keep, these types of Industrial Facilities.
- The safety we now have with minimal industry and light rail freight traffic.

Some small business owners in the City of Marshall may benefit and politicians at the state and county level will take a win, maybe.....

To have a Marshall Township trustee on the MAEDA board should have been a good thing, as a representative of Marshall Township residents and one who would communicate back to residents on anything impacting Marshall Township. Instead, there was no transparency. Further, having a Planning Commissioner on the MAEDA board while it worked with Calhoun County on a new Master Plan should have been a benefit. However, against the wishes of Marshall Township residents, a Master Plan was developed that created a future Heavy Industrial Mega-Site with the county urging an increase in the size of this Mega-Site.

These failings must be remedied....

As I have said before, in my opinion, the Master 425 Development Agreement is illegal under the statute. Your own lawyer reminds you in the attached document that you "shall enter into a 425 Agreement".

The Feb 9, 2022 Master 425 Development Agreement is illegal because it is clearly stated in numbered paragraph 6:

6. Property Owner Request. In the event an owner of property located in the Township requests sewer and water services from the City and the City has adequate capacity to service the property owner's development, the City and Township **shall** enter into a 425 Agreement based upon the terms and conditions herein contained provided the cost of extending the sewer and water to the property owner is not paid by either the City or Township.

This extends the agreement beyond the current board to 2029 and runs counter to the 425 statute, as it had no public hearing and overrides decisions on individual 425 transfer requests.

Marshall Township Board  
February 19, 2023  
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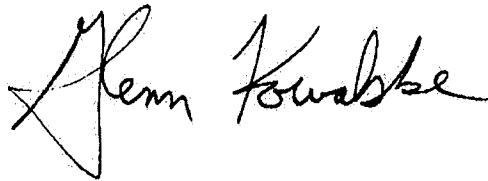
In closing, now that MAEDA has purchased options to buy or the property itself, this would be a good time to rethink the use of the land. Since it is in Marshall Township, unless you continue to vote to give it all to the City of Marshal, it should be our choice on its zoning.

A very eloquent solution would be to have the DNR purchase the land using the Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund for this purpose and use it for a state recreation area (see attached). The DNR purchased 2103 acres of land in Otsego and Cheboygan counties not too long ago. The fund has plenty of money and it is to be used for this purpose.

Program objective

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) projects provide for natural resource protection and outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Kowalske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Glenn Kowalske, P.E.  
Marshall Township

- The Marshall Township has the opportunity to stop this, to not get sweep up into the CCP agenda.

- How do you want your legacy the truth to help the township and community or to support the CCP agenda.

There is a push by China, the project is called China 2025, to control <sup>and lead</sup> the world in China technology. If the township & city of Marshall continues on this path, this will be your legacy, how you support Ford/China over the will of the people.

The future of the young depend on people doing the Right thing to stand against Communism and Socialism.

How do you want your legacy?  
Are you going to sell your soul and community for the almighty dollar?

Take this opportunity to Right a wrong - Vote No



15 year tax abatement

# The Devil is in the details



South Dakota

Gov Youngkin said no to Iran Horse

Jan 20 Keisty Noem bans China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela & Cuba - to no longer engage in technology purchases or contracts with any business owned or controlled by a person, entity or Government from the six

Other states banning → Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Vermont

- - Banned Tik Tok on Gov. devices
- - China Spy Balloon
- - Industry with ties of China locating near military bases, this proposed factory will be within 45 miles of two local bases and the HDI Fed Center.

Dr. A. Warner + Rubio work on Senate bill to stop Chinese Tech threats and security threats.

People will <sup>have the opportunity</sup> infiltrate into local community, organizations, business and schools. (Embedded)

How many of those businesses that sent letters to support this project knew the connection of supporting the CCP? How many were told the money they were receiving would be in support of the CCP?

- Deception to further the MAEDA agenda at any cost. How many are sitting in positions that crossover in loyalty and using the power to vote? Should recuse from voting, due to conflict of interest.

ethics

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## Delta Township residents raise health concerns over GM battery plant



The upcoming GM electric vehicle battery plant is expected to bring about 1,700 jobs to Mid-Michigan, but people living next door have a few concerns.

By Ta'Niyah Jordan

Published: Oct. 18, 2022 at 10:41 PM EDT | Updated: Oct. 18, 2022 at 11:14 PM EDT



**LANSING, Mich. (WILX)** - The new GM Electric Vehicle Battery Plant will bring about 1,700 jobs to the area. People living next door to the facility in Delta Township have a few concerns. They're worried about what it will do to the environment.

Will their water be contaminated? Will toxic chemicals be released into the air? What happens to their property value? These are just some of the concerns residents near the Ultium Cells battery plant want addressed.

"We just haven't been able to get, I guess, real, concrete answers from GM, from Ultium batteries, or from Delta Township," said Nicole Leitch, who lives across the street from the battery plant.

She said she reached out to the battery plant and the township supervisor asking what type of chemicals would be used in the plant – she hasn't received a response.

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Leitch said U.S Fish and Wildlife informed the community that when living next to a lithium battery plant, residents should have their water tested twice a year. "And not just regular water testing, you have to test for metals and lithium – lithium is extra."

Mary Ann Wagner lives just north of the battery plant. She said because the community is on a well, residents were also told to get a base line water test. Wagner said she's already ordered the test.

Wagner, like Leitch, is also concerned about what's going into the air "even though they have complied with all of the rules that they're supposed to comply by."

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Being offered exterior home power washing by the Ultium Cells battery plant only raised more questions in Mary Ann's mind.

"We have been offered, by Ultium and GM, that they'll come out and power wash our houses every quarter. And it's sort of suspicious that they would offer to do that if there were no concerns about what was in the air. So that was kind of a red flag for us," said Wagner.

Nicole and Mary Ann both went to an Ultium Cells informational session in June. After that, the plant requested to meet with individual households to address their concerns.

"I did reach out to Fish and Wildlife and they were the ones that were telling me all the details about the impact on the environment and the creatures that live there, reached out to the health department. I'm getting the contact information for Delta Township, I'm going to reach out to them. The sad part about is, it's pretty much a done deal – the plant is going up," said Wagner.

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Ultium Cells has submitted an air permit and they are working with the Delta Township Planning Board to submit chemical reports and emergency response plans.

News 10 reached out to both GM and the Delta Township Supervisor. Neither responded.

UPDATE: Ultium Cells sent News 10 a statement outlining its efforts to address concerns. In the statement, Ultium Cells says it "is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Lansing community. We have made local contacts with various community stakeholders including local schools, community colleges, universities and community members. We have also conducted proactive information meetings with our neighbors on what to expect during construction and the future operations of the facility and remain open for communication. Ultium Cells strives to be a good neighbor, partner and employer for the greater Lansing community."

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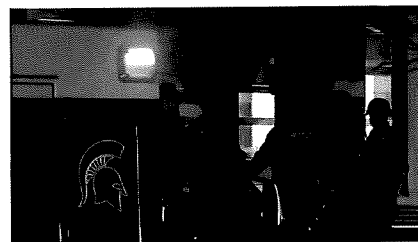
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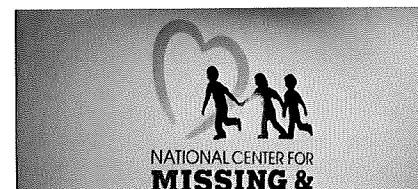
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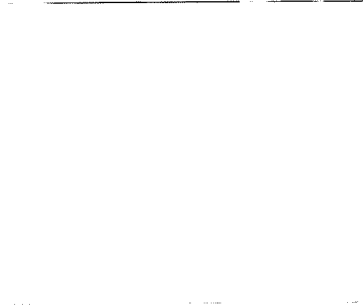


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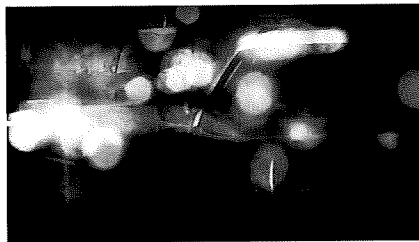
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From: RICHARD SADLER rsadler1961@att.net  
Subject: Tuesday  
Date: Feb 19, 2023 at 6:57:02 PM  
To: RICHARD SADLER rsadler1961@att.net

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Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you tonight. I want to voice my opposition to the Marshall mega site.

There are many reasons for opposing this project. What will the environmental impact be? It's too close to the river. The river will be polluted, it's just a matter of time. I have heard proponents of the project say that there are laws in place to prevent that. I'm sure there are, just as I'm sure there were laws when Enbridge dumped 800,000 + gallons of oil in it. It's just finally recovering from that mess, and now we want to put a EV battery plant near it. That speaks volumes about the lack of foresight in regards to our river.

What about the human impact? Land that has been passed down from generation to generation, gone. Historic farms and barns, gone. Families that have lived in the area for years, and newcomers like myself, contemplating leaving the area, for various reasons, mine being that my wife and I moved here because of the quiet, small town way of living. We both grew up in st. Joe, so we are very familiar with what we have here in Marshall, a familiar feeling that harkens to our past, a good way to bookend your life. But, you can't go home again, as the author Thomas Wolfe said.



If, <sup>it</sup> as ~~has been repeatedly been said~~, it's on the up and up, why ~~does~~ the whole thing stink to high heaven of half truths, back room deals, both political and economic, just plain shadiness, Chinese involvement, and a myriad of other factors? Why ~~does~~ senator Rubio want to start up a committee to investigate the licensing agreement between Ford and CATL? Who benefits the most, the people who are truly affected, or a select few, who stand to profit from the situation? I hope, that ~~this project is above board~~, that it was truly done for the good of the community, and not to line pockets. But, in my heart of hearts, I feel that's not the case. The optics of the situation are beyond bad. Why, if this has been in the works for so long, why weren't my wife and I informed of that when we purchased our home? Because someone neglected to inform us of that fact, and someone profited. Are the new homes for all the "new workers " going to be north of town, where again someone will profit? To paraphrase <sup>Newsman</sup> Peter Arnett, do we have to destroy Marshall to save it? The small town atmosphere is what drew me here, not to have a mega site a half a mile from my back door. Nobody wants that to be their first impression of Marshall, <sup>which is</sup> a historic town, at least when it suits the MAEDA board. I understand that progress is needed, for the good of the city. I'm sure that a similar phrase was used by the proponents of the industrial park south of town. You know the

one I'm talking about, the \$16 million dollar fiasco that has not been used.

To me, it's a matter of the wrong project, at the wrong time. I am <sup>disappointed in</sup> ~~ashamed~~ of the elected and unelected officials involved in this situation. Where is the compassion for your fellow human beings? I'll tell you where, the almighty dollar has spoken.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak.

Sent from my iPhone

## Farmland Sustains Us

Linda Smoot  
Fredonia Township

Before we rush to embrace what some refer to as “progress” first pause to consider what will be Lost. When land that has produced literally tons of corn & beans to feed a hungry nation is covered in concrete it can **NOT** be reclaimed. With the entrance of the Ford company more farmland will inevitably be lost to housing and strip malls. But what are we truly losing?

**Farmland is NOT** just vacant land it's not just of importance to the people who tend the land to feed not just their family but yours **Farmland is the foundation of our rural community it provides jobs, supports wildlife and biodiversity and provides a deep connection to the land. Farmland sustains us.**

This site, this plant and this plan are **unsustainable.** Eventually the plant will close, the people who came here will move away and we will be left with the disease of urban sprawl, untillable land and a broken community.

Our lives are interconnected in this town. Board members were elected to represent the people. I urge you to listen to what the people of your community are saying, as the impact of your decisions extend far beyond Marshall Township by putting the land transfers to a referendum and supporting the State Park Recreational area.

# The recognized Pioneer of

The Dwinnells were the first settlers West of Marshall.

They came from Auburn, NY, taking the Erie canal to Buffalo, from <sup>there</sup> thence to Detroit by the lakes, and from there with teams.

They built bridges all the way from Ann Arbor here, doing the first bridging in the district across Pidgeon creek and afterwards across the Kalamazoo. They opened the first farm in the fall of 1831, 3 miles west of Marshall City, putting in ten acres of wheat.

( This farm was at that time the site of an old Indian village and burying ground and had formerly been a French trading post. )

(This was reported by the Marshall Statesman 21st of February 1896)

"The beauty of these plains and openings in summer must have been most pleasing to the settlers, whose reminiscences describe them variously as being like 'a sea of grass and flowers,' or like 'a vast field of ripe grain, with here and there an orchard.' Even in winter these plains had their charms. A traveler in Calhoun county writes: 'But, lost as I was, I could not help pausing frequently when I struck the first burr-oak openings I had ever seen, to admire its novel beauty. It looked more like a pear-orchard than anything else to which I can assimilate it-the trees being somewhat of the shape and size of fullgrown pear trees, and standing at regular intervals apart from each other on the firm level soil, as if planted by some gardener. Here, too, I first saw deer in herds; and half frozen and weary as I was, the sight of these spirited-looking creatures sweeping in troops through these interminable groves, where any eye could follow them for miles over the smooth snowy plain, actually warmed and invigorated me, and I could hardly refrain from putting the rowels into my tired horse, and launching after the noble game.'

P. P. S. in 1831



## North County Trail Drive

It was, in its natural state, one of the finest regions in all Michigan; it had its

hills and dales covered with beach, maple and oak, which, on a summer's day

would shade the earth with their green foliage. It had its gentle slopes and

sunny ridges; its rich plains bringing forth green herbage, and beautiful flowers

to blossom in spring time; its beautiful lakes and rivers where the Indian

Indian in his birch canoe could be seen sailing on the bosom of the placid waters. The

beauty and loveliness of the region alone would have attracted the early settler

here. But it was not this alone, not alone the grandeur, or beauty of landscape

that enticed the seekers of (homes, in the then far West,) to locate in this section,

but it was the diversity as well as the fertility of the soil. The whole region

was found to be as various as its surface. The lowlands were found to contain

the deepest vegetable moulds, which through cultivation would make excellent

meadows. Its broad acres of beautiful plains, dotted here and there with a

lonely oak and filling the air with the fragrance of its beautiful flowers, contained the richest loams, were easy of cultivation and well adapted

for the growing of vegetables and cereals and especially of Indian corn, while the hills and

ridges with the same rich loam and a larger admixture of sand and gravel,

would prove excellent for the successful cultivation of apples and other fruits.

In addition to all this, the region was found abundantly supplied with water

from the Kalamazoo river and its tributaries.

Natalie Valle  
21671 B Drive North  
Marshall

### Statement on the Marshall Megasite and Ford Plant

My name is Natalie Valle, and I live in Marengo Township. I moved to Marshall from Chicago, a city which I loved, 36 years ago. My husband and I could have lived just about anywhere, but we chose Marshall because it was a vibrant small town that had safe streets, no traffic congestion or pollution, rural surroundings, and a relaxed pace of life. We put down roots and raised our family here, living in town for nine years and then moving about five minutes outside of town to have more opportunity to enjoy the natural world. I love Marshall. This is my home, but the Ford battery plant will destroy all of the things that made us choose Marshall in the first place. So I am adamantly opposed to the plan.

However, this isn't just about me. I'm concerned about our community's children. They weren't doing too well before the pandemic lockdown, but now they're in crisis. As many analysts have observed, the younger generation is the most obese, anxious, depressed, and medicated generation in our history. Too many of them are spending most of their free time in front of screens and becoming more depressed and more disconnected from the real world. They need help, and one of the things that could greatly help them is more green space in which to connect with nature. Studies have shown that simply having a window to look out at a tree can improve an employee's mental health and creativity, and this is even more true for children. In Richard Louv's book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, he details how spending time in nature is essential to our children's physical, mental, and emotional development. As just one example, Cornell University environmental psychologists found that life's stressful events don't cause as much psychological distress in children who live in high-nature environments compared to children who live in low-nature environments. Children with more nature near their homes were found to have fewer behavioral conduct disorders and less anxiety and depression. They also rated themselves higher on a measure of self-worth.

Children need to run and jump, play and work together in nature. And they need the opportunity simply to sit and listen to the beautiful song of a wood thrush, enjoy the relaxed splashing of a muskrat in the Kalamazoo River, and see the majesty of a Bald Eagle flying overhead. As industry gobbles up more and more of

This is to the Marshall Township Board, The MAEDA and MEDC groups, The United Ford/CATL company, the MI state politicians, and taxpayers funding this Marshall megasite,

We understand why the United Ford/CATL partnership is desired here in Marshall by MAEDA and our state of MI politicians. We want investment and creative development ideas brought to our town. We want the small businesses in our town to not just succeed but to be discovered and celebrated far and wide for the beauty and charm they possess. But we want these development ideas coming to our town to the benefit the whole, not just the few. We also want these development ideas to benefit our communities for the long term, not hurt our community and then leave it worse off than it originally was.

This United Ford/CATL project is not something that benefits everyone here today. There is another side to this and we hope you will listen to the people asking for a referendum here tonight.

We believe that more thought needs to go into the location of the MEGASITE. It will be a real mistake in the long run to put it on excellent agricultural ground. It will be a real mistake to put it on a stretch of river that is being used for recreation. It will be a real mistake to let this site grow from the original small industrial parcel to a huge megasite which will dwarf the small towns that flank it on both sides that it will engulf.

Why doesn't MEDC work to repurpose old vacant brownfields that are left in this state? It would be a huge reclamation project and a huge win for everyone from the politicians to the higher population densities able to fill the open positions and jumpstart the production. This huge project needs to go in an area that has the luxury of space between their industrial lands and their residential neighborhoods. Bridge the past and the future, by renovating and improving something that once was zoned for heavy industry already. The Packard plant in Detroit grew to 80 buildings across 80 acres. It only had a 57 year run, and demolition started October 2022 after the last car was produced in 1956. The city of Detroit is full of decay from automotive heavy industry. Detroit was once known as the Paris of the Midwest. Is that what you think of when you think of Detroit? Lets clean it up, and repurpose it. Let this land purchased with taxpayer dollars in Marshall Township be used for recreational activities, agriculture, historical preservation. Let the beauty of this land draw people to the area. Don't destroy it with the permanence of old trees laid to waste, and concrete structures left as the stamp of one of Ford's forgotten projects. We are not the Motor City. We cannot compete with the Motor City.

Is MAEDA serious about helping our small town? Is Governor Whitmer serious about environmental conservation? Your principals are pretty shallow if you are letting this gross amount of productive agricultural land go over something that will not stand the test of time. They are planning another disposable industrial site that starts 1.5 miles from the crown jewel of downtown Marshall – our Brooks Memorial Fountain. This site being rezoned to heavy industrial is in very close proximity to residential areas in the small towns of Marshall and Ceresco.

There is a finite amount of Lithium and a finite amount of Phosphorous. What happens to this place when that is expired and the next technology moves in to take its place? Cummins.com states "the warnings of a lithium supply shortage threaten to cut global EV sales forecast in 2030, but even that hasn't appeared to slow the momentum of adopting LFP batteries into electric vehicles." You have

heard all of the talk of the Russia/Ukraine conflict causing issues with Phosphorous supply. This seems to be a high risk endeavor for a partnership with CATL that is slated to begin production in 2026. 4 years of projected material availability for production at this megasite? Then what? You've got to find a new technology to replace this? Ford claims to only be using 950 acres of the projected 2000acre site. It is pure greed to secure more. They wouldn't be giving the 250acre green space along the river if it was actually usable buildable land. That is not a compromise. You can't hide mile upon mile of factory from view on the river. How many actual factories are being planned on this site?

Green environmental principals go out the window when green dollars are flashed in front of your eyes. This needs to go to referendum. We are asking you to listen to the people who asked last month and those that are asking for it here tonight.

Matthew Eggleton and Laura Bartlett

Concerned residents of Marshall MI and neighbors in close proximity to Marshall Township.



Dear Marshall Township Board,

I am here today to express my concern regarding the proposed electric vehicle battery plant. While it may sound like a great opportunity for our community, there are significant economic concerns that must be taken into account.

The production of lithium and cobalt, two crucial materials in electric vehicle batteries, is heavily reliant on unstable foreign markets. These markets are often plagued by political instability, labor violations, and supply chain issues. As a result, prices for these materials can be volatile, leading to unpredictable production costs for manufacturers.

Furthermore, the demand for electric vehicles is currently concentrated in a few countries, and it is uncertain whether this demand will continue to grow at a sustainable rate. A sudden drop in demand could leave the proposed plant vulnerable to a boom-and-bust cycle, which would have negative consequences for our local economy.

In addition, the lithium and cobalt industry has been linked to numerous environmental and social issues, including water pollution, deforestation, and human rights abuses. These concerns could damage the reputation of our city and negatively impact our local economy.

Finally, while the proposed plant may create jobs in the short term, we must consider the long-term economic sustainability of the industry. If demand for electric vehicles decreases, the plant may be forced to downsize or shut down, leaving our community with few options for economic recovery.

I heard that the majority of the jobs at the proposed EV plant site are \$18-20 per hour. Construction costs being what they are, an average plant worker supporting a family will not be able to afford a new construction home or an existing rental.

Lastly, the average demographics of the Marshall Township Board, Marshall City Council, and MAEDA board concern me as a millennial. It feels like you are only thinking of your limited lifetimes, making a decision on behalf of all of us, leaving the trailing generations to deal with the consequences.

In conclusion, I urge the City Council to reconsider the proposed electric vehicle battery plant. The potential economic risks and negative externalities are significant, and we must prioritize sustainable development that is beneficial for our community in the long run.

Thank you.



Jason Blanchard  
Marshall

Glenn Kowalske Statement at February 20, 2023 Marshall Township Public Hearing on 425 Transfers

Glenn Kowalske, Marshall Township

First, I would like to commend Dave Bosserd for having the courage to vote no on the four 425 transfers on Jan 26. Hopefully more of you will join him and vote no on these 425 transfer requests, which the residents of Marshall Township overwhelmingly do not want to happen.

Creating a heavy industrial site on prime farmland and residential properties does not make sense for Marshall Township. We lose at every point.

I have now pieced together the path taken to get to this catastrophic event.

It appears that MAEDA approached Calhoun County in 2019 about working in collaboration on a Mega-Site preparation study under at least two state grants. This appears to have started at the November 7, 2019 commissioners meeting. “Ms. Bomba stated that the County was partnering with Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance (MAEDA) on the Marshall Mega Site Readiness Grant. Ms. Bomba explained that this property was approximately 1,700 acres that would also be assessed for potential obstacles for future development.”

There are many other steps that took place by Calhoun County and MAEDA that culminated in at least \$500,000 awarded by the state for site readiness planning and more money for the complete removal of trees on C Drive to “pave” the way for this Mega-Site to become a reality. We have not yet been able to get this site preparation information from Marshall Township, the City of Marshall or Calhoun County.

At the same time during 2019, MAEDA apparently started to approach property owners in this same area of 1900 acres. As we now know, MAEDA has procured purchase options, or sales, on most of this property. At last count, this is 79 properties recorded by Calhoun County.

At the same time (2019-2022), the Marshall Township Planning Commission embarked on an update to the Master Plan. Richard Lindsey sits on this commission as well as the MAEDA board. The outcome, with encouragement from Calhoun County to increase the size, was a Master Plan that now shows 1900+ acres for Heavy Industrial zoning – the Mega-Site.

During all of this, Marshall Township has had a trustee Bob Lyng on the MAEDA board. However, this Marshall Township Board has said they knew nothing about what was going on and are merely victims of some larger entity movement. How can this be?

This is clearly a breach of trust and a lack of transparency and must be remedied. Why would this body participate in an organization like MAEDA and then not bring early information to a resident township hall or voter referendum in the 2019 time period. This would have been **BEFORE** things got started in a direction that Marshall Township residents clearly DO NOT WANT?

Please vote these 425 transfers down.

Thank you,

Glenn Kowalske

## Jeff Albaugh

---

**From:** jecieslak@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** David Bosserd; Jeff Albaugh; Nikki Roberts; Robert Lyng; Dan Walsh; dithompson@calhouncountymi.gov  
**Subject:** opinion of Marshall township resident

Marshall Township Board  
Diane Thompson, Calhoun County Commissioner, District 6

My name is Judith Hendrickson Cieslak. I grew up on a farm on H Drive North in Marshall Township that was traded to my parents in 1945 from my grandparents. I'm not sure when my grandparents bought it. David Bosserd began to rent the land when he was just a kid and in 1986 it was sold to him. It was extremely important to my family that the farm be entrusted to someone who valued it and we did not even entertain the thought of trying to get more money for it, or look for a different purchaser. It makes me very happy to drive by and see that it is still beautiful rolling farm land. While I live in the north side of Marshall Township I have total empathy for those residents directly impacted by the megasite.

After college I lived in the Detroit area for 40 years and returned to Marshall Township in retirement in 2012. I have made a substantial financial investment in creating a lovely home in a great environment. Clearly my opinion personally leans toward keeping things the same or with less change than is proposed. My 40 years in Wayne county may give me additional perspective into what a drastic change is coming to Calhoun county and especially Marshall Township, which I believe is effectively being traded away to a corporation(s) that prefers to build on new pristine land rather than other locations within Michigan that are already industrial.

I am all too familiar with what the Ford Rouge complex looks like—and believe me no one—especially the workers want to live near there. There are numerous auto plants in the Detroit metropolitan area and they are all grim at best. I lived just off Plymouth Road in Livonia for 26 years immediately before I moved to Marshall Township—not only Ford but many other companies were located between Plymouth Road and I-96. There was heavy truck traffic and clean air issues. I recall problems with the railroad tracks and sometimes substances escaped into the air. Nevertheless I loved my house there and it was a difficult decision to leave it. Having grown up on a farm I had a strong yearning to return to Marshall Township so my decision was well thought out and a country environment was the driving force.

It does not appear to me that the Marshall Township board is making decisions based on the opinions of its residents as I believe that most people have chosen their place of residence just as I did. Also, based on the incomes that are needed to live in Marshall Township, those that need jobs have them. I contrast the handling with this with when the Firekeepers Casino was built a number of years ago and residents were able to vote. I also believe that the lack of transparency and lack of appearance of fairness and representation has made the situation excessively acrimonious. I chose to write to the Board to make my opinions heard as I feel that the atmosphere here has become increasingly angry and divisive.

While I clearly prefer that Marshall Township not be in this position and would prefer that no more land transfers take place, I sincerely hope that the Marshall Township board will do everything in its power to effectively advocate for the residents of Marshall Township and do everything possible to preserve the environment to its best ability. As I visited Marshall Township hall to pay my not insubstantial taxes last week I wondered what will happen to it and will the burden to replace it fall on the fewer residents that will be left in the tax base? Will there be any kind of requirement for Ford and other possible industrial corporations that they respect the environment? Given that Marshall Township residents are giving up a substantial amount of quality of life will there be any benefit to them—either economically or aesthetically? There are many unanswered questions at this time and I do not feel confident that the opinions of Marshall Township residents matter.

Janice C. Arnett  
2444 W. Halbert Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

James Durian  
MAEDA  
"Choose Marshall"  
And Marshall Township Board

James Durian (MAEDA) and Marshall Township Board,

In shock, my husband and I watched as the press conference following the shootings at Michigan State University, detailed those tragic events. The pain will remain forever with the affected families. If you felt any sorrow over what happened at MSU, I ask you to look honestly at the horror so many of us in Calhoun County feel at the announcement that Ford Motor Company has made, with your help and Chinese partnership, about its intentions for a poisonous factory on precious farmland. This is a different kind of death, a different kind of betrayal, and as strong as it might sound, your support for this project places your hands on another kind of deadly trigger.

- The Marshall community did NOT know this was coming until a "special meeting" was called to vote on the first of the land transfers. Nondisclosure agreements, aka hush money, were used for years. There was intimidation, misrepresentation, fear-mongering. No public hearing was held. People did not have a chance to exercise their rights as American citizens. This is NOT democracy. Rumor has it, some of you are quite smug about that and have any number of unkind names for people standing up to you. You, James Durian included, who does not even live in Marshall or Marshall Township.
- History has proven that we cannot trust the Chinese. They have stolen trade secrets and own millions of acres of American soil, some near our military installations. China is a gunman against our own national security. Its hand is on the trigger.
- EV batteries and vehicles are NOT trustworthy and are not sustainable. Lithium mining is highly toxic, and is in limited supply, a decade or less, and these batteries are extremely dangerous. Transporting product is high risk. We have seen what just happened in East Palestine, Ohio, and near Detroit. This is not in the best interest of Michigan and its citizens.
- Ford stopped producing one of its trucks because of EV problems – what will Calhoun County be left with in a few years? A monstrous hulking carcass on land we can no longer use? Another toxic brownfield like the dozens over Michigan already? Who "wins"? Who loses? *We all lose because we all depend on the land for survival. It can no longer be taken for granted.*
- There is NO way that anyone involved in a project like this can claim to have any respect for the planet and environment. This is antithetical to everything that protecting the environment is about. People are dying due to human-made disasters. *Who is pulling the trigger?*
- The most important things we have in this state right now are fresh water – some of the last remaining fresh water on the planet -- open land for growing crops that feed the world, and the ability to connect with nature – trees which absorb carbon, the soil which absorbs heat, and all of nature which supports MENTAL and PHYSICAL HEALTH. This is what we need to preserve and



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honor in Michigan. You, with the exception of Dave Bosserd, one courageous and sensible Marshall Township Board member, have swallowed the Megasite Kool-aid. Shame on you.

It is great to talk about jobs that pay well. But then what? If there is nothing left after work, but apartments, box stores, traffic, lights, and noise what has happened with quality of life?

We are a world spinning out of control thinking that if we drive faster, eat more, drink more, buy more, and use more technology, somehow we will be happier. One pill doesn't work so we take still more to dull our senses. Violent "entertainment" heightens anxiety and violent tendencies. A lack of exercise exacerbates physical problems and weakens mental health.

Another factory won't make things better. Jobs are already everywhere with no one to fill them. We need to restore our connection to the land and life-giving EARTH first and foremost. We need moral values and an honest work ethic.

Most conspiracy theories are foolish. But there was and is a conspiracy of silence around the Marshall Megasite. It is NOT TOO LATE to do the right thing. You know what that is and how to save the treasure we already have in historic Marshall and throughout Michigan.

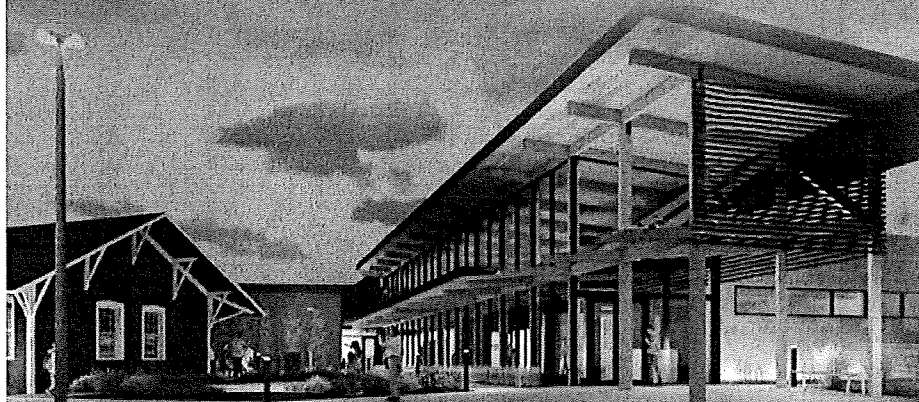
An alternative to an unproven, dangerous technology, is to honor our respect for our life-giving land by letting this area remain open space, setting aside a large portion as a preservation, recreation area which includes these historic farmsteads and nearby "Indian Village."

Be leaders, not corporate puppets. Be men of conviction, not blind ambition. Serve Marshall in the best way possible. Don't pull the trigger on the citizens you represent.

Sincerely,

Jan Corey Arnett  
[www.jancoreyarnett.com](http://www.jancoreyarnett.com)  
[www.barnbelievers.org](http://www.barnbelievers.org)

# There is an **ALTERNATIVE** to the megasite

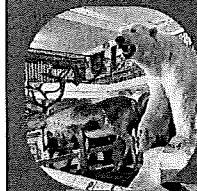


## A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME **OPPORTUNITY**

Calhoun County residents deserve what residents in other counties already enjoy, a State Recreational Area

The proposed Kalamazoo River Recreational Area could include:

- Miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and trail riding
- Tent campsites and primitive cabins
- Kalamazoo River observation platforms
- Canoe/kayak launch site
- An agricultural district including the Riverside farm
  - Community gardens, community barns and chicken coop
  - Agricultural heritage center for hosting educational events
  - Horse pasture and arena
  - Venue for concerts, weddings, events and festivals
  - A new modern facility for the Kingman Museum of Natural History



**The possibilities are endless,  
but we need your support.**

### **MEGASITE IMPACTS AT A GLANCE**

A megasite does not fit with the historic and cultural values that make Marshall an attractive place to live.

Property values near the site will be negatively impacted.

Light, noise, air quality, and environmental pollution.

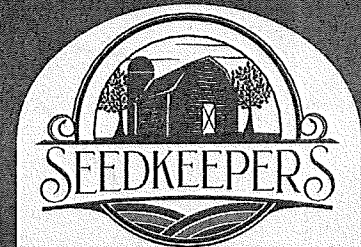
It's close proximity to the Kalamazoo River, puts the river and surrounding area at risk.

The megasite will destroy natural habitat and displace animals and pollinators.

### **WE DESERVE BALANCE**

We ask Governor Whitmer, to use our taxpayer money to create a 1,800 acre State Recreational Area instead of an industrial wasteland.

Support the creation of a Kalamazoo River Recreational Area.



**We have a better plan  
for our community**

Seedkeepers is a community organization with the mission to promote environmental conservation, outdoor recreation, and historical and cultural preservation throughout our service areas.

This ad paid for  
by Seedkeepers.

**Learn more at [www.michiganmegasite.com](http://www.michiganmegasite.com)**

02/20/2023

At the 01/26/2023 Township meeting, the Board spoke of the residents' predictions, which they chose to ignore. But the Board listened to contrary predictions by non-residents, who will personally profit from the Megosite, and accepted them.

Aren't the Township Board members elected by residents of the Township, to listen to their concerns and carry out their will? Anything less is a betrayal of the public trust.

We believe this Megosite proposal was meant to be a "done deal" but residents weren't allowed a referendum on the proposal. So, we have no faith that this Township Board, their officials, or State officials can be relied on to prevent the type of pollution or contamination we saw of the Kalamazoo River, not to mention our wells, the air, chemical leaching into the soil, noise, smell and light pollution. These EV Battery factories are

short-lived, less than 10 years on average, yet are being (2 granted 15 years tax abatement! Are the taxpayers ready to quietly pay increased taxes? No! Were not!

Yet the State of Michigan is the Nation's Leader in establishing trails and Greenways in Michigan to fulfill their goal of "Moving Michigan Forward", and it brings new business and life, and visitors to small towns.

Here's a few of the trails named: Falling Waters Trail, Border to Border Trail (So. Haven to Pontiac) Hal-Haxson Trail, Halamagoo River Valley Trail, Friends of the Lakebands Trail and Michigan Air Line Trail. These trails would link up well with our proposed State Recreational Park, and be a better, lasting alternative to a Megasite.

In conclusion, I've heard several mentions of "recall" and believe the Board, who've never held a "real job", should resign and apply for Megasite jobs, they want the Megasite to bring. Boycott all Ford Motor Co. products!

Conni Lieberman