

Dear Marshall City Council Members,

My name is Cody Manley.

I am writing this letter to voice my strong support for the rezoning of land to allow the BlueOval Battery Park Michigan project to move forward, a critical step toward the development of this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

I'm proud to join the many area residents, business leaders and small business owners who support efforts by you and our local leaders to make Ford's electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing facility a reality. This project will bring thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of investment to Marshall, the region, and the entire state of Michigan for decades into the future.

I strongly support efforts to keep this facility on track to open in 2026, when it will add 2,500 new jobs to our local economy. Our community also will benefit much earlier than that as jobs are filled for the construction of BlueOval Battery Park Michigan and other needs. This project will spark new investment in our region and create an infusion of millions of dollars into the local economy, helping small businesses like restaurants, retail and other local shops.

Making batteries for electric vehicles right here in Marshall means bringing back jobs and manufacturing to Michigan that have been outsourced to other states and countries. It also helps to bring the supply chain back to the U.S., reducing our reliance on manufacturing from other countries, including China, and helping to protect our national security.

BlueOval Battery Park Michigan puts our state – and not other countries like China – in a leading role in the future of the auto industry, which is electric vehicles. And producing EV batteries in Marshall means we are contributing to the transition to environmentally friendly cars that help protect our water, air, land and our Great Lakes.

I have been a longtime supporter of Ford Motor Co., having owned both cars and a tractor made by the Michigan-based automaker. We agreed to sell our property so it can be part of this project because we believe it will benefit this area for years into the future. It will create new jobs for young people, so they don't have to move away. It also will create a new talent pipeline, giving young people the skills and training to stay in the region.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote to support rezoning for BlueOval Battery Park Michigan and keep this important project on track.

Thank you,

Cody Manley

Marshall Township resident