

Dear Marshall City Council Members,

My name is Catherine Yates.

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 have been on the LDFA/DDA Board since 2014. A focus on recruiting new businesses to the area has been the primary purpose of that board. Even though the BlueOval project is not within the LDFA or DDA, I feel it will bring much needed jobs and will spur other satellite businesses to fill the industrial park. All of this yields an increase in property values, and an economic “shot in the arm” for our local retailers. In addition, Ford’s reputation for responsible ways of doing business gives me comfort that Ford is the right company for this site.

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.

This project is a win-win for our entire community and the greater southwest Michigan region. It will create economic opportunities while still preserving our community’s unique characteristics.

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,
Catherine Yates