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Letters of support for BlueOval Battery Park in Marshall pour in ahead of City Council vote

*Letters from a range of business owners, community members show
widespread support for Ford project that will bring jobs, investment*

MARSHALL, Mich. — Community leaders, business owners and Marshall residents are among those who have written letters supporting a rezoning change before the City Council that will keep **Ford Motor Co.**'s electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing facility moving forward.

The **BlueOval Battery Park Michigan** project will create 2,500 jobs in Marshall when it opens in 2026 and will bring tens of thousands of jobs to the area much earlier as construction on the site begins.

Marshall residents and small business owners are among [those who have written letters](#) to the Marshall City Council to encourage the panel to vote on Monday to rezone land needed for this cutting-edge project that will build batteries for electric vehicles, the future of the auto industry.

Marshall Township resident **Lisa Johnson** wrote about her support for the Ford facility, noting that several members of her family have moved away from the area because of job opportunities in other communities and states.

"I will be the only one left in Michigan with the exception of my daughter and one niece and her husband. I love my town. We need good jobs in this community to bring families back and to

keep families together,” Johnson said. “This project brings so much more opportunity for growth for the local businesses as well as the possibility of new business.”

The Ford project is a once-in-a-generation project and experts project it will generate a total personal income of nearly \$30 billion over 20 years.

“Without growth, which increases the tax base, resulting in increased revenue, cities gradually lose their residents, schools decline and eventually merge into other communities, hospitals close, grocery stores and other businesses close and property values decline,” **Ronald DeGraw**, Marshall Township resident, wrote to the City Council. “The Marshall we know cannot survive without growth.”

Ian Stewart, director of production at Starr Commonwealth and the leader of a young professional's network in the Marshall area, noted in his letter to the City Council that BlueOval Battery Park Michigan will bring back jobs and manufacturing to Michigan that have been outsourced to other states and countries.

“It 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,” Stewart wrote. “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.”

Dr. Matthew Woods, who sold his property to be part of the site where BlueOval Battery Park Michigan will be built, also wrote a letter to the City Council strongly supporting rezoning needed to keep the project on track.

“Believe it or not, these batteries will be made somewhere. Not only will this project help Marshall and the local area, making batteries for electric vehicles that have been outsourced to other countries will shorten the supply chain for the automobile industry in Michigan,” Woods wrote.

“I have heard people say that it is a Chinese takeover of our land and economy. I’m typing this letter on a computer made in China and reading it through glasses made in China. Globalization is here, whether we like it or not. It is incoherent to suddenly become xenophobic or jingoistic when it suits us, for whatever reason, and ignore reality.”

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