

April 28, 2023

Jim Schwartz
Mayor
City of Marshall
323 W. Michigan Avenue
Marshall, MI 49068

Subject: Support for the Ford BlueOval Battery Park Michigan from Battle Creek Unlimited

Dear Mayor Schwartz:

I am writing to voice Battle Creek Unlimited's wholehearted support for the Ford BlueOval Battery Park Michigan project, proposed for the Marshall Megasite. As the economic development organization for the City of Battle Creek, Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is focused on attracting investment and creating jobs in Battle Creek. BCU manages the Fort Custer Industrial Park, which is home to nearly 90 companies, including top automotive suppliers like DENSO, Magna, Adient, and BASF.

The BlueOval Battery Park Michigan is exactly the kind of investment Calhoun County needs. Ford Motor Co. is proposing to invest \$3.5 billion and create 2,500 new jobs to build lithium phosphate batteries in Marshall. This would be a transformative project for Marshall, Battle Creek, and all of Calhoun County, as well as the State of Michigan. The facility would attract thousands of new residents to the region, which would increase property tax revenues, income tax revenues, and bring in more money for our public schools. New residents and employees working here would create more opportunities for local businesses. A project like this will help revitalize our community and breathe new life into shuttered stores and restaurants.

The Marshall Megasite is ideally suited for the BlueOval Battery Park Michigan. The site is strategically located between Detroit and Chicago, just off I-94 and I-69, making it especially attractive to manufacturers. One quarter of the US population, more than 90 million people, are within a day's drive of the megasite. Over the last three years, nearly three dozen companies have considered megasites in Calhoun County. Most of the companies are in the Electric Vehicle sector and need facilities to manufacture the next generation of vehicles, EV batteries or battery materials. These are top-tier companies, which provide highly-skilled jobs, excellent pay, and good benefits.

I am confident that Ford's BlueOval Battery Park Michigan project is the highest and best use for the Marshall site. This is our opportunity to bring a world class company to Calhoun County, and position our community to grow for decades to come. I urge you to vote in favor of the rezoning request to enable this project to move forward.

Regards,



Joe Sobieralski
President & CEO

CC: Derek Parry, City of Marshall
Stephanie Fries, Ford Motor Co.