



May 18, 2023

Acting Director Aaron Keatley
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Dear Acting Director Keatley:

We write you today to address a very concerning issue that has been brought to light during the recent discussion on the awarding of \$715 million in state incentives by the Michigan Strategic Fund and the Democrat-controlled House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to Gotion Inc., a Chinese Communist Party-affiliated entity.

Despite the incentives being approved, the environmental impact of this project is still unclear. We have been told that an assessment of the soil has been conducted and that a geotechnical evaluation is underway. However, neither of those items have provided any of the answers to the questions posed by many state legislators or the concerned residents of Mecosta County. Several requests for an environmental impact study have been made with no real response from state regulators.

Furthermore, Gotion Inc. representatives have admitted in open hearings that the facility will be withdrawing approximately 715,000 gallons of Michigan groundwater per day — far exceeding The Nestle Company's withdrawal rate for their bottled water operation. In fact, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, in 2018, cited public outcry over the large amount of water being withdrawn by the Nestle operation, and arguing that the company was not compensating the public fairly for that amount.

We can only assume those previous concerns of the governor are heightened when the amount of water being withdrawn is greater, and hardworking taxpayers have already committed \$715 million to this project.

With all of these concerns continuing to grow, especially among the local residents who will be most impacted by the effects and consequences of this project, it is all the more necessary for your department to publicly provide all of the documents detailing the environmental impacts of this project. These documents should detail the daily, massive water withdrawals that will occur from local watersheds, the geotechnical evaluation, and any other reviews or assessments that have been conducted by the local, state, or federal governments.

We trust that fulfilling this request will not be a time-consuming or difficult endeavor as these all would seem to be commonsense inquiries to perform and documentation to create ahead of committing significant natural and fiscal resources of Michiganders to such a large and controversial project.

We thank you for your time and the people we all serve look forward to reviewing the information requested.

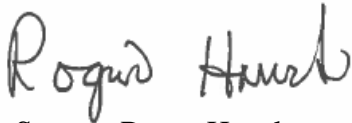
Sincerely,



Senator Aric Nesbitt
Republican Leader
District 20



Representative Matt Hall
Republican Leader
District 42



Senator Roger Hauck
District 34



Representative Tom Kunse
District 100



Senator Dan Lauwers
District 25



Representative Timmy Beson
District 96



Senator Lana Theis
District 22



Representative Angela Rigas
District 79

Cc: The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor