## MICHIGAN



## **LEGISLATURE**

June 7, 2023

Quentin L. Messer, CEO Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) 300 N. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer:

We write you today in search of an explanation regarding a communication we recently received from the acting director of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The communication was a response to our inquiry requesting any and all information regarding the potential environmental impacts of the project your entity recently awarded \$715 million in state incentives, that being Gotion Inc., a Chinese Communist Party-affiliated entity.<sup>1</sup>

Our inquiry came at the conclusion of months of requests and questions from members of the Legislature, as well as members of the public-at-large, concerned that the lead-up to this project lacked transparency and answers regarding environmental concerns.

Many of those questions remain unanswered.

Specifically, public records reviewed via the MEDC website indicate an assessment of the soil has been conducted and a geotechnical evaluation is underway. There also have been several requests for an environmental impact study to be conducted. No response as to if that has occurred has been made. This, of course, is in conjunction with the concern of the water withdrawals this facility will extract (an expected 715,000 gallons per day) from local resources.

Most concerning to us, though, is how EGLE, the department tasked with observing and reviewing these types of concerns, appears to have had no knowledge or data related to any of the potential impacts from this project. Furthermore, it also is concerning how the MEDC approved \$715 million in state incentives to this company without including EGLE in the review of any important environmental data that you received.

Therefore, we respectfully request any and all documents you have pertaining to the potential environmental impacts that could occur from the planned Gotion project in Mecosta County. This information is important to the members of the Legislature, who are stewards of the tax dollars given to the company, as well as all Michiganders, who are stewards of our great state's natural resources.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm I}$  A copy of our initial inquiry and EGLE's response is included with this communication.

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

Sincerely,

Sen. Aric Nesbitt Republican Leader 20th District

Sen. Roger Hauck 34th District

Sen. Dan Lauwers 25th District

Sen. Lana Theis 22nd District

Sen. Joe Bellino 16th District Rep. Matt Hall Republican Leader 42nd District

Rep. Tom Kunse 100th District

Rep. Timmy Beson 96th District

Rep. Angela Rigas 79th District

Cc: The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor Aaron Keatley, Acting Director, EGLE