

Liz Masters' Speech:

Officials in Michigan have been displaying a destructive agenda on what they label "clean energy" - Greed In corporate incentives, mining, massive battery and chip facilities, and industrial monstrosities of wind turbines 700' and 2000 acre solar plants. All at the cost of our tax payers. Partnering with China for many of the products, weakening our national security, and destroying our irreplaceable natural resources.

My Statement: Many township and county officials are not corrupt. Mistakes made, may not have been intentional, while you have the others that look for opportunities. Most make a small salary for their efforts and roles, and serve part time. Many run unopposed for years, with minute audiences at their meetings. Companies peg prospect of easily intimidated or the possible "win-win" officials.

On the 26 mile road proposal, residents, and current and former officials from areas around Ira and Chin townships have been speaking up for their rights to planning and zoning with sound legitimate reasoning for opposition. Commissioners Jeff Bohm, Dave Vandebossche, and EDA's Dan Casey have been relentless in developing an industrial hub and encourage corporations to set footholds in our fertile rural lands, rather than utilizing our planned vacant industrial spaces. They're planning these sites for Macomb and Metro Detroit workers to come.

These plans are NOT new. How does it happen? The corporations and various sectors snag commissioners and EDA reps at mixers and conventions like Mackinaw. "Stakeholders" (proponent companies, officials, land owners) begin prepping land sales, leases, and even plan infrastructure improvement before-hand to build their case.

How will they accomplish it? **2 KEY FACTORS IN THIS PLAY BOOK**

1. Unsuspecting residents & tax payers. They prey on elderly land owners and encourage income into the future for the children. They prey on rural cheaper lands to develop, rather than zoned industrial. Lastly vulnerable township boards of trustee members, and their planning and zoning boards-casual citizen boards. Corporations and higher county officials could insist that the township is behind the times and are limiting the county and community's tax revenue for schools, roads, and fire.

Companies press that the landowners "have rights" to rezone for income supplement, ignoring the fact that the neighbors also have rights to remain rurally zoned. With fears of corporate lawsuits, they're easily walked into letting a company speak (as guest) at meetings for 30 minutes here, and 30 minutes there, while public only get 3 minutes. Finally, corporations will push for a rushed hearing. Studies and consultants financially burden while intense crowded meetings overwhelm the boards.

2. Throughout Michigan corrupt officials are getting exposed who've signed personal leases or agreements with corporations, making decisions and swaying boards for solar, wind, battery and chip plants. Like I said, "stakeholders will prep well before a proposal and hearing".

Not new plans - a large electric transmission corridor came down through our thumb 10 years ago with the huge substations that came as undetected target tie-ins for massive wind turbines just north of our county and gigantic solar plants for Greenwood, Grant, Wales, Riley, Kenoske, Kimball, Brockway, and more. - it's finally become a fierce battle for residents against the industrial noise, loss of land and

natural resources. The sales reps ran around for 6 years signing land leases, purposely avoiding township offices to quietly build their case. Wales even experience a large land owner who'd lost attempts to industrialize their farmland in Grant and Greenwood, try a different route by attempting to gain a position on the board in 2020 and 2022... fortunately, the public shoe through and voted against.

Great energy is growing to defend RURAL LANDS. Solar battles in central St. Clair County like Greenwood and Wales and 26 mile road to the south – we need to watch out for each other. This is just the same as a bully on the school bus. Do NOT underestimate the current industry trends, folks!

The threat of MEGA chip and battery plant 500-1000 acres in size and massive solar sites 2000 acres are the trend, just as Marshall, Green Twp., and Montcalm County. We're no different a target. We're not alone. Communities are battling and WINNING! Small communities are seeing record recalling of corrupt officials and powerful laws like the MZEA (Michigan Zoning and Enabling Act) and supporting laws of 125.3203, that requires local planning and zoning board to hold public hearings before they can change zoning and master plans.

Major rules in local zoning:

1. Retain local zoning rights of local offices, CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE!
2. Planning and zoning decisions should never be made for tax revenue.
3. THE COUNTY BOARD DOES NOT POSESS THE POWER TO CHANGE LOCAL ZONING!

To repeat that, according to MZEA act THE COUNTY BOARD DOES NOT POSESS THE POWER TO CHANGE LOCAL ZONING!

Wales Large Solar Ordinance (2019) stalled BIG SOLAR long enough to obtain a tough legal team to defend and amend. The planning and zoning laws for locals are STRONG laws!

- Liz Masters

