

April 24, 2023



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Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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Mr. William Clay Ford, Jr.
Executive Chair
1 American Rd.
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

Re: Addressing Concerns for the Kalamazoo River Watershed at the Blue Oval Battery Park at the Megasite in Marshall, Michigan

Dear Chairman Ford,

We are writing to you to request that as development of the BlueOval Battery Park in Marshall, Michigan proceeds, Ford Motor Company will include, among its highest priorities, substantial efforts to minimize the negative impacts of the site on the Kalamazoo River in Marshall and communities throughout the Kalamazoo River watershed. We further request that Ford seek to make the BlueOval Battery Park location a global example of how the industrial development needed to address climate change can occur with great sensitivity to the surrounding environment, specifically the water environment.

The Kalamazoo River watershed, the area of land that drains into the Kalamazoo River, encompasses over 2000 square miles of land and water. The River flows over 170 miles from its headwaters in Hillsdale and Jackson counties to Lake Michigan. From the location of the BlueOval Battery Park in Marshall, communities located downstream along the river's path include Ceresco, Battle Creek, Augusta, Galesburg, Comstock, Kalamazoo, Plainwell, Otsego, Allegan, New Richmond, Douglas, and Saugatuck, where the river meets Lake Michigan. The Kalamazoo River watershed is home to over 400,000 people, and is a priceless regional environmental asset important culturally, as a recreational resource, and as part of a clean water supply for people and businesses.

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council has a 30-year history as an important voice in southwest Michigan for restoring and protecting the health of the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries, and its watershed. We are a science-based organization that works to promote wise stewardship and use of the surface and groundwater resources in the Kalamazoo River watershed by collaborating with communities, government agencies, local officials, and

businesses. We are the umbrella organization for the public to help address past industrial legacy chemical pollution, working with many partners to return the river to a more natural, vibrant Great Lakes river ecosystem for the benefit of this region, and the economies of all its communities. In addition, the KRWC played a key role in the response to the Enbridge Oil Spill of 2010, which originated in a tributary west of Marshall near the BlueOval site and continued 40 miles downstream on the Kalamazoo River, by offering scientific expertise to State and Federal partners for the restoration work. More recently, the Council has shown strong support for the State of Michigan's efforts to hold the owner of the Morrow Dam near Comstock accountable for allowing hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of reservoir sediment to wash illegally into the Kalamazoo River during months-long repairs to the dam, causing substantial damage to the river ecosystem and increased risk to human life downstream.

We also promote and celebrate the river as a recreational, aesthetic, and economic resource for all. We believe that a sustainable balance between social, economic, and environmental needs is possible for the Kalamazoo River watershed community when all parties work together toward this goal. In 2023, some of our activities include:

- Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Kanoe the Kazoo paddle events and the Krazy for the Kazoo cleanup and stewardship events, which bring hundreds of people together to enjoy and care for the Kalamazoo River;
- Partnering with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and a dozen other Michigan organizations in a new drinking water protection project, working to plant trees and communicate the importance of forests to clean drinking water within the Kalamazoo River watershed;
- Supporting forward progress and communication about the many cleanup and restoration activities in the Kalamazoo River Area of Concern (AOC) and the Allied Paper/Kalamazoo River Superfund site where the cleanup of PCB-contaminated river sediments and floodplain soils is ongoing;
- Participating in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services "Eat Safe Fish" program to help educate the watershed community about the fish consumption advice that applies to fish caught from the Kalamazoo River.

We understand that business development is important to maintaining vibrant communities, and that the BlueOval Battery Park represents an important step in the reduction of fossil fuel use and its impact on our local and global climate. But as the history of industrial development in the Great Lakes region has demonstrated, it is also clear that good stewardship of the Kalamazoo River Watershed will not happen without careful attention to detail by those leading development, and a clear goal to make the quality of the river environment a local and regional priority.

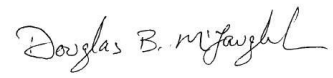
Our goal in writing this letter is to encourage the Ford Motor Company to place a high priority during the design and implementation of the BlueOval Battery Park on minimizing impacts to the Kalamazoo River and all surface and groundwater resources in the surrounding region, especially considering the proximity of site to the Kalamazoo River and Bear Creek, which is a trout stream. History has shown that early investments in environmental sustainability can produce substantial long term environmental, social, and economic benefits. Specific to the BlueOval Battery Park:

- As we already have indicated in discussions with Ford Motor Company staff and contractors, we are strongly encouraging extensive use of green infrastructure at the site in order to retain and infiltrate into the ground as much stormwater as possible. This will help reduce the impact of more extreme rain and runoff events on Bear Creek and the Kalamazoo River. The “Living Roof” and other green infrastructure techniques at the Ford Rouge Center is an example of how Ford Motor Company has been a global leader in minimizing stormwater impacts, and we encourage a similar level of commitment here. The current stormwater design is more conventional and appears only to meet the minimum standard of stormwater management. We believe a more robust, natural design will help create an industrial site for the 21st Century and can be a showcase for the area and the State;
- We encourage careful attention to detail by site personnel during the construction of the plant, especially during rain events, so that the loss of sediment and associated nutrients to the river is fully controlled and minimized;
- We are excited about the conservation easement of property along the river, and we encourage strong implementation and management of the easement to maximize its environmental benefits;
- We encourage extensive efforts to minimize the amount of water needed during the manufacturing process and withdrawn from local wells. We also encourage investments in wastewater pre-treatment methods that mitigate negative impacts to the operation of the Marshall wastewater treatment plant and reduce the discharge of heavy metals and other pollutants to levels that are well below wastewater discharge permit limits.

In conclusion, we further request an opportunity to build long term relationships with key personnel at Ford and their contractors who are leading the construction of the site and its management into the future so that an ongoing, productive dialog focused on the sustainability of the Kalamazoo River and its surrounding communities can occur. We look forward to a continued dialog, and the opportunity to see the BlueOval Battery Park

develop in a way that demonstrates a commitment by Ford Motor Company to preserving this priceless quality of life asset in southwest Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas B. McLaughlin".

Douglas McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Executive Director

CC:

Mr. Jim Dobleske, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Ford Land

Mr. Andy Hobbs, Global Director of the Environmental Quality Office,
Environmental Quality Office