# **Responses to Public Questions**

After reviewing this public input, Mecosta County resident and Gotion vice president Chuck Thelen wrote answers for the four broad categories that they covered, which should be read before the rest of the document. Those answers are as follows:

# Jobs and growth

Gotion's \$2.36 billion investment will create more than 2,000 jobs. The typical worker at Gotion's plant will earn total compensation of more than \$60,000, which includes a starting wage of \$24.50 an hour, plus benefits of health, life, dental, vacation and 401K. This total compensation compares to the average wage of \$16.50 in the Big Rapids area.

This investment will lift up local families and the entire area. Gotion was looking at sites all over the United States and selected the Big Rapids area because of our strong work ethic, opportunities to partner with Ferris State's world class industrial tech programs, and the build-ready industrial site that the local community has been working to prepare for years.

I have deep roots here in Big Rapids, and Gotion wants to make a home here as well. We can compete for jobs and new investment with anywhere else in the country. Gotion chose Michigan over other sites because they know what we know: this place is special.

#### **Environmental protection**

With manufacturing and offices all over the world, Gotion has an incredible record of safety and environmental protection. Manufacturing isn't like it used to be – our facilities are clean, quiet, and do not have safety issues because of the way we build and run them. We've never had any environmental issues at any facility worldwide because we care about the local communities where we choose to locate. We chose the Big Rapids area because we believe the people and the community are the best in the world, and we want to keep it that way.

Like with any new construction, we've been working with the state and federal government on studying all of the impacts that this facility will have on the local environment, and as we work through that process, we'll share with those regulators and with the public everything we plan to do to protect the environment. What we can promise now is that for every acre of wetland impacted, we'll create 1.5-2 acres of new wetlands somewhere in the Muskegon River Watershed. I've fished the waters here in Mecosta County and have a vested interest in protecting our abundant natural resources.

Our 2,000 team members will be part of this community, I am. We know that our precious environmental resources are part of what makes Michigan such a special place to live, work, and raise a family. That's why our promise is to meet or exceed the relevant environmental rules. Michigan's amazing land and water resources don't stay that way because of some bureaucrats in

Washington DC – it's because all of us are committed to protecting what we care about.

#### Infrastructure

In addition to the strong work ethic among people here in West Michigan, Gotion selected this site because it's ready-made for industrial development, with easy access to the freeway and the airport ensuring minimal impact on our local roads. 70% of the property being utilized has been zoned industrial 20 yrs ago. This early strategy indicates the community is ready for this type of manufacturing investment.

We've also extensively worked with local, state and federal environmental experts to ensure that our normal manufacturing activities can be sustained without a negative impact on the lives of our neighbors. We'll continue that work, and we'll be transparent with the public about whatever we find. We are committed to being good neighbors as we grow together with Big Rapids.

The state has already committed to investments to support upgrades to 220th and 18 Mile Road, intersections around the site, interchanges on 131, and the necessary water and sewer improvements to ensure that activities on the site will have minimal impact on our neighbors.

## **Transparency**

We're committed to being good neighbors as we grow, creating more than 2,000 new jobs that will compensate the typical employee more than \$60,000 a year. We know that everyone in the Big Rapids area loves their local community, which is why this project has inspired such passionate conversations since Gotion chose Big Rapids six months ago.

Those conversations have happened publicly, and we promise even more public conversations as this process continues. That process has given us a chance to share some facts:

- Like many international companies, Gotion is based in China but Gotion is not Chineseowned. Gotion is a publicly-traded company that makes electric battery components, and is committed to making those parts in the United States.
- We voluntarily submitted information to a U.S. treasury department panel to review whether
  there were any national security concerns relating to a similar project in the United States.
  After an extensive four-week independent review, the panel found no concerns and gave us
  the green light to proceed with the project. We anticipate an answer on the big rapids based
  voluntary Treasury Department inquiry in the coming weeks.
- Gotion's investment is being supported by the state through a special fund for projects like this that was created by a bipartisan super-majority vote of the Legislature in 2021.
- The industrial site east of 131 between 18 and 19 Mile Road has been for sale for many years. Sites like these are in demand across the country, and Gotion selected it because of the work ethic of local folks in this area, and unique opportunities to partner with local universities.
- Those 2,000 new jobs will be filled first by local residents, in a process that will unfold over

the next six to ten years and include training opportunities for those who already live nearby.

# **Public Questions**

1. Provide anticipated water usage for the facility (gallons per day) and the basis for that usage. Provide initial, progress, and full build-out usage volumes based on Gotion's proposed build-out schedule.

Answer: The estimated water usage for the site, based on input from Gotion's manufacturing institute, is as follows:

Phase 1: Cathode 1/ Anode 1/ Electrolyte 1: 715,000 gallons per day. This is the start-up amount and will be reduced when the water pre-treatment facility is in operation. Gotion has never experienced any environmental issues at any facility because they care about the local communities where they choose to locate. The plan for this facility has been developed collaboratively with local stakeholders and as it continues to come together there will be additional opportunities for public input. This site will not have a negative impact on local water resources.

2. Provide detail on any water system improvements that Gotion has identified that will be necessary to serve the proposed project.

Answer: Upgrade 12" Water Main, Elevated Storage Tank (500,000 gallons), as part of overall infrastructure improvements totaling nearly \$20 million.

3. Please provide a copy of the water study that Gotion (or its agents) commissioned with respect to Gotion's water needs and potential impact on the area water supply (this study was referenced by you at the September 26, 2022 joint meeting with Mecosta County Board of Commissioners, and the township boards of Big Rapids Township and Green Charter Township).

Answer: We've worked extensively with local, state and federal experts and regulators to ensure that our construction and manufacturing activities can be sustained with minimal impact on the precious natural resources of the Muskegon River Watershed and the Big Rapids area. We'll continue that work, and be transparent with the public about whatever we find. We are committed to being good neighbors as we grow together with Big Rapids.

4. Provide anticipated sewer discharge volume into the public sanitary sewer (gallons per day) and the basis for that usage. Provide initial, progress, and full build-out usage volumes based on Gotion's proposed build-out schedule.

Answer: Initial estimate for Phase 1 = 65,000 gallons per day increasing when Phase 2 is completed to 130,000 gallons per day.

5. Provide wastewater characteristics. See attached Non-Domestic User survey. Describe any planned on-site wastewater pretreatment activities that are needed to allow for discharge to the public sanitary sewer.

Answer: A wastewater and pretreatment facility will be installed on the Gotion site. Wastewater will be recycled as much as possible to reduce the amount of water used. All wastewater requirements set by the state, county and township will be adhered to.

6. Provide information about anticipated non-contact cooling water discharges that Gotion will be pursuing through the NPDES program.

Answer: Any possible pollutants will be declared during the permit process that is managed by EGLE and EPA. The water pretreatment facility installed on-site will remove all undesired pollutants if any exist. To be clear, the process that uses water for cooling does not introduce contaminants into the wastewater. A water source cannot come into contact with the materials being used. Large scale dehumidification equipment is required to ensure the dryness of the material.

7. Provide detail on any necessary sanitary sewer system extensions and improvements necessary to serve the project including, but not limited to any pretreatment activities/improvements that will be required.

Answer: After on-site pretreatment, any outflows will be connected to the local wastewater system. Other than wastewater line and lift station upgrades noted earlier, no additional improvements are anticipated.

8. Provide a copy of the most recent site plan for the property in Big Rapids Charter Township (conceptual or otherwise) showing proposed building, parking, truck loading and staging areas and configurations, dimensions and heights, and ingress and egress points.

Answer: There is no current plan to build on any property in Big Rapids Township.

9. Confirm that Gotion understands that connection fees will be required for the system that represents share in the collection system and the treatment system.

#### **Answer: Confirmed**

10. Confirm that Gotion understands that a metering manhole will be required at the discharge point from the plant to allow for both metering and composite sampling of the waste stream.

#### **Answer: Confirmed**

11. Please describe Gotion's and the project's needs with respect to fire and emergency mitigation and response.

Answer: Gotion will install a fire water pump house, and an estimated 500,000-gallon fire water tank to support any potential fire related issues in the event of a main fire suppression fault. Gotion will also work directly with local first responders to assist in training on the materials that will be present in the plant.

12. Please identify any specialized training, vehicles, or equipment that first responders should have to

Answer: This facility will be producing battery components, not finished batteries. No electric charging/discharging/storing of batteries will occur on site. Gotion has an incredible record of safety and environmental protection in its facilities all over the world, and this site will be no exception. Gotion chose the Big Rapids area because it believes the people and the community are the best in the world, and they want to keep it that way.

13. Describe what strategies, safeguards, facilities and equipment that will be utilized and/or installed at the project to reduce the likelihood of a significant fire or disaster.

Answer: The facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with the 2015 International Building Code (IBC 2015). Fire suppression will adhere to the 2013 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems Michigan.

The purpose of this standard shall be to provide a reasonable degree of protection for life and property from fire through standardization of design, installation, and testing requirements for sprinkler systems, including private fire service mains, based on sound engineering principles, test data, and field experience.

14. Please identify which materials utilized or stored on-site and/or used in production will be of concern to firefighters responding to an incident at the facility.

Answer: Material Safety Data Sheets will be given to authorities that outline not only the type of materials in the plant, but also the locations where these are stored. <u>Additionally, the key</u> component of a battery is a lithium compound. Lithium as a pure element is unstable and will

# NOT be present at the facility. Only stable lithium based compounds such as a lithium carbonate, will be present.

15. If Gotion acquires the Township's water system, please detail what Gotion intends to do with existing hydrants in and around the project area. Will those hydrants be maintained for public use? Will the townships' emergency services have access to those hydrants for emergency and fire response?

Answer: The terms of the acquisition of the water system remain to be determined. Once Gotion agrees on the use of the water system, the company is committed to maintaining public access to the hydrants for emergency and fire response purposes.

16. Provide a summary and description of road improvements that Gotion or its agents/engineers have identified as being necessary to develop this project and/or that have been planned (or are in progress) with the Mecosta County Road Commission (MCRC) and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) along with any estimated cost data.

Answer: The state has already committed the necessary funds to support the following infrastructure upgrades:

- Widening of road at both East and West on/off ramps at US-131 / 19 Mile Road.
- Three traffic signals added at 1)19 Mile Road/ US-131 2) 19 Mile Road/ BR 131 (Northland Drive) and 3) 18 Mile Road / BR 131 (Northland Drive)
- 220th Ave Road Widening and Bridge widening/improvement
- 18 Mile Road Widening
- Intersection improvements at Northland Drive / 18 Mile Road
- 17. Provide any reports, plans or studies describing anticipated impacts on existing roads and traffic, including projected truck trips in and out of the facility, that have been prepared. If no such reports, plans or studies have yet been prepared, please provide a timetable as to when such documents will be prepared and provided to the Township.

Answer: No formal study has been conducted to date, but an estimated 70-96 trucks will enter and depart daily. All will use 19 Mile Road / US 131 / 220th only. Any necessary traffic studies would be conducted as part of the design engineering process, which will likely begin in Fall 2023. As a comparison I am told that Ice Mountain experiences up to 120 trucks a day during summer months.

18. Provide an explanation of Gotion's understanding as to what public infrastructure improvements (water, sewer, road, drainage, etc.) will be required for the project, who will be responsible for making those improvements, and how the costs for those infrastructure improvements will be paid. Will Gotion be paying for any public infrastructure

improvements necessitated by this project? If so, which improvements?

Answer: Infrastructure improvements will be funded by the State of Michigan through a grant. Preliminary cost estimates are approximately \$19.5M. More detailed engineering will be conducted in Q2-Q3 2023.

# **Target improvements include:**

- 8" Sanitary Sewer
- Sanitary Manhole
- Sewer Lift Station
- Pump Station Upgrade
- 12" Water Main
- Elevated Storage Tank (500,000 gallons)
- 12" Valve and box
- 5" Hydrant and Fittings

Green Charter Township will manage the underground utility upgrades while the Mecosta County Road Commission will manage the road improvements. Compared to other large-scale projects across the country, the infrastructure needs in Big Rapids are minimal—the freeway interchange, water & sewer, and existing road network are in exceptional shape.

19. Provide an explanation of the anticipated transportation methods and routes for transportation of materials (e.g., lithium, cobalt, graphite, manganese and/or nickel) necessary for battery production at the facility and the methods and routes for the finished product. Does the nature of these materials require any special handling, transportation or storage measures? Where will these materials come from?

Answer: This facility will construct anode and cathode materials for LFP batteries. LFP batteries do not use Cobalt, Nickel or Manganese. Lithium phosphate (or similar stable lithium compound), graphite and other associated raw materials will use the truck routes already outlined. Pure lithium will not be used due to its elemental instability. Best practices for shipment of these materials will be employed. The materials will be brought into the manufacturing facility via truck. The sources of these materials will follow "local for local" sourcing guidelines. When not available locally, the materials will come from locations that are not on the list of "banned" locations.

20. Describe Gotion's waste management strategy with respect to the proposed project. Will there be special wastes associated with battery manufacturing? How will those special wastes be managed?

Answer: Our waste management strategy will be held to the highest standards, because we know that our precious environmental resources must be protected. <u>No "special"</u> waste conditions are expected.

21. Provide an explanation of any equipment that will be installed or processes utilized by Gotion to reduce or eliminate air pollution from the project (and identify those contaminants of concern), so that the operation will be in compliance with applicable federal and state law.

Answer: An air permit is estimated to be submitted by July 2023. The state and federal authorities will receive our stated levels of air emissions and determine next steps. This plant is classified as having Minor emissions, meaning any emissions will be negligible. Continuing conformance plan will also be provided to the governing bodies. All equipment pertaining to the process will be ISO certified

22. Provide an explanation of any equipment that will be installed or processes utilized by Gotion to reduce or eliminate ground or surface water pollution from the project (and identify those contaminants of concern), so that the operation will be in compliance with applicable federal and state law.

Answer: Gotion will follow EGLE requirements for all water quality requirements. A water pretreatment station is in the site plan that will serve to purify wastewater to a condition that makes it suitable for recycling back into the process for cooling. Any other wastewater treatment will follow local requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements before being introduced into the local wastewater treatment. Continuing conformance to wastewater content will be executed per state and local requirements.

23. Provide an explanation as to the energy requirements to power the facility and how those requirements will be met. Will Gotion utilize or install alternative or green energy solutions such as solar and/or wind energy and if so, where will such solutions be located?

Answer: Gotion will work with Consumers Energy to power the facility in a sustainable way that won't have a negative impact on the environment or the local power grid. None of this energy will be produced on the site.

24. Provide an explanation and data as to how Gotion's water usage will not adversely impact surrounding private water wells and aquifers.

Answer: Like with any new construction, Gotion has been working with the local, state and federal government on studying all of the impacts that this facility may have on the local environment, and as Gotion works through that process, the company will share with the public everything it plans to do to protect the environment. What Gotion can promise now is it will meet or exceed the relevant environmental protection standards: for every acre of wetland impacted, it will create 1.5-2 acres of new wetlands somewhere in the Muskegon River Watershed.

25. Provide any information as to anticipated noise (decibel) levels associated with the

anticipated near-continuous operation of the facility and any noise mitigation measures that will be utilized to reduce noise pollution from the facility.

Answer: The manufacturing buildings will be climate-controlled and fully contained. Gotion will employ "green belts"--evergreen trees, plantings, berms— around the facility to improve both aesthetics and noise suppression.

26. Will Gotion construct and utilize a foundry onsite as part of the production process?

### Answer: No.

27. Provide a copy of the complete report that has been referenced by Gotion and/or The Right Place in public meetings regarding the employment characteristics in the region and the radius from which Gotion will employ workers for the project (a 50- 60 mile radius has been mentioned) that makes this area attractive for this project.

Answer: The labor studies referenced are private reports of the company. That said, several key themes emerged from the studies that are worth noting: Mecosta County witnesses 6,500 residents leave the County for work each day, which suggests they can be encouraged to stay closer to home with a quality job opportunity; Ferris State University graduates nearly 1,400 students each year, with select few currently staying in Big Rapids area; nearby Community Colleges in Ludington, Greenville, Muskegon and Grand Rapids also produce significant graduates each year; finally, the anticipated average starting wage of \$24.50/hour and strong benefit package will be highly competitive.

28. Provide a copy of any report, study or summary that projects the impact of the proposed project on the Big Rapids community over the next 5+ years, describing impacts such as anticipated population growth (plant employees and families) over the next 5 years.

Answer: Gotion, Inc. will invest up to \$2.364B in this new venture over multiple phases of development during the span of approximately eight years. Up to 2,350 new high-tech jobs are pledged to be created by the end of development of the new facility.

Through the fruition of this proposed industrial development project, Gotion, Inc. has the potential to be the largest private employer in the multi-county region. Along with Ferris State University, this proposed renewable energy facility project of Gotion, Inc. would become a base for the local as well as regional economy.

This project will provide indirect benefits to the area in the form of creating new businesses and job creation in other economic sectors like construction, services, retail & wholesale trades, and FIRE (finance, insurance, and real estate). According to a REMI economic modeling analysis, this project will have a job multiplier of 3.14 to 1. In direct and indirect employment, the project is expected to generate nearly 7,000 total jobs across the broader Big Rapids area.

29. Provide a breakdown of the estimated annual salaries for various levels of employees (from lowest to highest –not an average of all workers) and anticipated number of employees within those levels at the proposed facility. What does a typical employee benefit package for a Gotion factory worker include?

Answer: Full-time workers will total 2,350 and will be provided a full array of benefits, including health insurance, dental & eye care, sick time, vacation time, life insurance, 401 K retirement and continuing education assistance. The average annual compensation is estimated at roughly \$60,000 after benefits and paid vacation is included.

A new employee is expected to be paid roughly \$24.50/hr. The compensation package is expected to include typical components of insurances, 401k and paid vacations.

30. Provide a breakdown as to the number of employees that will be employed at the facility that will be hired locally versus those that will need to be brought in from outside of the state (or country), identify the level of those workers (production, management, etc.), and whether Gotion has any plans or agreements with respect to providing housing for employees coming from outside of the state.

Answer: While project timing has been extended, the information supplied in the Renaissance Zone application last fall remains a good estimate on hiring patterns.

| Job Category      | First Year of Operation       |                    | Third Year of Operation       |                    | Fifth Year of Operation       |                    | T. ( IN )               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                   | New Full-time<br>Jobs Created | Avg Weekly<br>Wage | New Full-time<br>Jobs Created | Avg Weekly<br>Wage | New Full-time<br>Jobs Created | Avg Weekly<br>Wage | Total Number<br>of Jobs |
| Mgment/Prof       | 43                            |                    | 17                            |                    | 11                            |                    | 71                      |
| Technical/Sales   | 35                            |                    | 35                            |                    | 10                            |                    | 80                      |
| Clerical/Service  | 8                             |                    | 4                             |                    | 2                             |                    | 14                      |
| Skilled/Unskilled | 500                           |                    | 500                           |                    | 700                           |                    | 1700                    |
| Total             | 586                           | \$1,015 (avg)      | 556                           | \$1,032(avg)       | 723                           | \$1,076(avg)       | 1865                    |

In time, Gotion will employ 2,350 employees. Of those jobs, no more than 50 international consultants are expected to be on site to assist with facility startup, equipment operation and maintenance, and training. Of the remaining 2,300 people, Gotion expects the overwhelming majority to be from within a 45-mile radius, while likely recruiting nationally for the most technical, difficult to fill positions.

Positions will be recruited through Michigan Works. The company will request that local applications be prioritized before relocating employees are considered. Graduates from local high schools and local colleges will also receive priority. Gotion will not actively pursue employees from other local businesses. Gotion does expect employees wishing to find a new better paying job to apply for their positions. The company will work with all members of the Mecosta County Development Commission to ensure it is part of the overall community

#### business team.

31. Will Green Township request a review from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States like Big Rapids township did because Gotion backed out after being asked that question. If the answer is no, why not?

Answer: Green Charter Twp. will not be filing such a request, because a request has already been filed by our U.S. Congressman. <u>In addition, Gotion N.A. has also voluntarily filed for a notice themselves on April 13, 2023 and we await those results.</u>

32. How many workers will be sent from China?

Answer: Roughly 25 to 50 expert consultants will come from overseas <u>for a period of roughly 1yr.</u> It's unknown whether or how many of those consultants will come from specific countries.

33. How much money does Ferris stand to gain from this battery program now that this plant it opening up.

Answer: Ferris State University endeavors to enhance the competitiveness of our community and region by developing work-ready graduates, solving real-world challenges with innovative applied knowledge and research, and by supporting economic development efforts and community leaders. We stand ready to provide these support activities and active partnership to any economic development project in the region.

Through alignment with current academic programs, development of short-term certificate programs, and grant funding for training and retraining the workforce for the realities of the industry shift to EV technology, and the development of a future Center for Battery Production and Testing, Ferris is well positioned to support this specific project and the greater region's workforce training needs.

34. Will Article 9 that applies overseas be implemented here?

Answer: No. <u>In addition, Article 9 is only present in China due to local requirements and is</u> not included in any other location worldwide.

35. Gotion states they will be 100% "green." I hear some people state they don't understand how Gotion can install that many wind turbines and/or solar panels on their property in order to get to their 100% goal. Does "going green" mean that wind turbines and/or solar panels have to literally be installed on a company's property in order to be "green?"

Answer: Gotion will not install wind turbines or solar panels on its property to supply their

energy needs directly. Rather, they are working with Consumers Energy to supply the energy needed through a flexible, turnkey solution of energy credits from existing and planned expansion of renewable energy production, to achieve their sustainability goals and protect the planet for future generations.

36. What would like to know?: Gotion, Other

Your message: How has the Gotion project, the national attention here with it, inspired organizations & funding for other community needs such as housing, infrastructure etc. throughout all of Big Rapids? And, could you give us a couple examples of the work with such too, things we do not physically "see" yet?

Answer: Mecosta County Development Corporation (MCDC) and The Right Place have now had inquiries from 48 businesses and developers interested in the project, ranging from battery component suppliers, automated equipment makers, battery recycling operations, building maintenance businesses, childcare and housing developers. Local governments (Townships, City and County) have had similar inquiries. A project of this size and scope will attract housing developers to the area once construction of the factory is underway. Additionally, industrial suppliers, either existing ones in the Big Rapids area or new companies to the community, will be in high demand. Further, we anticipate housing and childcare grant opportunities to address community needs.

37. What will the wages be for a production worker? Not the average for all workers. Starting/approx. wage for an entry level production worker

Answer: Roughly \$24.50/hr, totaling \$60k per year after all benefits are applied.

38. Question: Explain why publicly traded companies need to be careful on how they present information on land purchases, due to laws?

Answer: The equivalent organizations to the Securities and Exchange Commission exist both in Switzerland and China, where Gotion has publicly traded stock. To avoid any type of fraud or insider trading issues, any plans for expansion must adhere to the relevant international regulations, too.

39. Question: Explain the Claw Backs that the company will face if they don't meet the requirements of hiring as people have expressed concern about it being all robots. De the Claw Backs include pay scales that must be reached?

Answer: Clawbacks are milestones of investment and job creation that must be met. If not met, the company is obligated to either pay the state back for portions of the incentive or to renegotiate to reach those milestones in coming years.

40. Question: Explain EGLE's Roll and what they do to protect companies from polluting the water and air and ground contamination

Answer: EGLE must review and approve any and all plans for the manufacturing site. Their methods of review are in concert with the EPA and they help to coach the company on how to execute the project with great emphasis placed on the health of the environment and the citizens that live here. Gotion's 2,000 team members will be part of this community. With senior team members who have deep roots in the Big Rapids area and currently live locally, Gotion understands that our region's precious environmental resources are part of what makes Michigan such a special place to live, work, and raise a family. That's why they've promised meet or exceed all of the relevant environmental rules. Michigan's amazing land and water resources don't stay that way because of some bureaucrats in Washington, DC - it's because all of us are committed to protecting what we care about.

41. Question: Explain MIOSHA and possibly OSHA and explain what their roll will be in this project

Answer: MIOSHA standards will be met in all phases of the project, because Gotion is committed to meeting or exceeding the highest standards of health and safety for this project. An Environmental Health and Safety team of people will be employed by the company to ensure that employee and community health is not compromised. They will also execute continuing conformance assessment and improvement of water and air quality systems to ensure they are not compromised at any time.

42. Question: It is my understanding that there is a concern about housing and that Big Rapids resources could be overwhelmed. I am on the Housing Commission and I know that we will be building 10 houses this year with a total of 88 spaces, and that there are other companies in the wings waiting to see if this project is a go. What are the other resources that might be needed in the 10 eras that this will take this project to reach its goal in the Renaissance agreement.

Answer: Gotion will hire 2,350 over roughly 10 years, though the job growth will not be linear. There will be years they will seek to fill as many as 7000 new jobs and others where new hiring will be roughly 200 people. Housing developers--and the Housing Commission-can analyze the job projections, estimate how many of those people may seek new housing, and begin to plan and build accordingly. Keep in mind, not all of that housing growth will be in the immediate Big Rapids area. Some may choose to live in Reed City, Newaygo, Canadian Lakes, Cedar Springs or other nearby communities.

43. Question: When companies that are economic based companies come into the area there is a multiplier effect. What does that chart look like for this company?

multiplier for this project is 3.14 (an additional 2.14 jobs are created for every 1 direct job), Therefore, for the investment dollars and people employed by the company, that financial position of the area citizens is expected to be enjoyed by up to roughly 6,900 residents.

44. Question: Can you explain why there are non disclosure agreements?

Answer: NDAs are a common practice in economic development projects and allow companies to share the necessary non-public financial, proprietary, and commercial information needed to evaluate business and community development opportunities. If a company whose project is covered by an NDA determines to move forward with incentives to secure and support a project in Michigan, the terms and conditions of those incentives, including total value of the incentive amount, are reviewed and approved in a public meeting of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board. Gotion's investment is being supported by the state through a special fund for projects like this that was created by a bipartisan super-majority vote of the legislature in 2021.

45. Question: Who is paying for the necessary infrastructure improvements: Roads, water/sewer?

Answer: A grant from the MEDC will cover approximately \$19.5M in infrastructure improvements around the project area.

46. Question: How much ground water are they going to consume? How will it affect my home's water well?

Answer: With manufacturing and offices all over the world, Gotion has an incredible record of safety and environmental protection. The company has never had any environmental issues at any facility worldwide, because they care about the local communities where they choose to locate. The same is true here - your home's water well will not see any impacts because of this new facility.

47. Question: How much do you stand to gain financially? Will you live here after the fact?

Answer: Gotion has senior staff who live in Mecosta County and <u>plan to</u> continue to live locally once the plant is constructed and operating.

48. Question: What are the possible environmental impacts and the proposed mitigations?

Answer: Gotion is committed to meeting or exceeding all the relevant local, state and federal environmental standards.

49. Question: Why was this not brought to the public's attention prior to the two twin engine jets landing at Roben Hood airport on the Sunday prior to the news release of this project? I live within sight of the proposed location. I live within sight of the airport. I watched one of the twin engine jets land, wondering "Why are they here?" Then I here on the radio out of Grand Rapids of this proposed (now in place) battery component plant.

Answer: The airplane landing at Roben-Hood airport on the day prior to the announcement was a coincidence and not associated with Gotion. Gotion has not used the airport during its due diligence process.

50. Question: Shelby Twp purchases multiple on-use fire blankets for EV cars. Is Gotion willing to have these on hand at the facility, reducing exposure and costs, if there were a fire.

Answer: Gotion is not producing finished batteries at this facility, only battery components. There is no risk of the thermal events this question contemplates. That said, Gotion will work closely with local emergency responders to make sure they are properly trained and prepared to serve our facility.

51. Question: What precautions will they be taking to protect the water, soil, and air during daily operations

Answer: As local neighbors to the people who live here in the Big Rapids area, Gotion will be going above and beyond to make sure that our precious natural resources are protected at all phases of this project.

52. Question: How is Gotion going to prepare their future employees in the local emergency responders to safely deal with fire, chemical, contamination, water runoff, and air quality.

Answer: All these topics have been contemplated from the earliest design phases. Gotion will select an Architectural Engineering and General Contractor that has already executed these plant builds and build not only on code requirements, but also lessons learned through their other projects. Other details in this topic area have already been explored in answers to previous questions.

53. Question: Does anyone on the board (or associated with) stand to profit directly from this deal? Land sales and such?

Answer: Nobody on MCDC or The Right Place staff stand to profit from this project. One trustee from Green Township and his brother own one piece of farmland. As is standard practice, that trustee has recused himself from any vote that would affect any financial gain. Nobody from Gotion owns any of the land and will not profit from the land transactions.

54. Question: What are our chemicals (toxic) to worry about?

Answer: Lithium phosphate and Graphite are the two main elements being used in the process. Both are stable compounds/elements.

55. Question: Precautions to ensure Muskegon River maintains its current quality

Answer: This project presents no threat or impact to the current quality of the Muskegon River. One of the company's senior executives is a native of the Big Rapids area who enjoys fishing locally and will continue to do so for years to come. That same executive participated in a large scale watershed clean up 18yrs ago organized by big rapids based "team works" that removed 22 20yd roll off boxes of garbage that had been thrown there over the past 50+ yrs by tresspassers. That is the level of his dedication to the environment.

56. Question: How is the township going to handle expenses for infrastructure increase with property tax revenue for 30 years. Starting at 500 jobs so not going to be there.

Answer: The site location has been vetted carefully, identifying much of the infrastructure service in place is capable of handling the project needs now and into the future. There are infrastructure improvements planned, using the state grant noted earlier. These include upgrades to 220th and 18 Mile Road, upgrades to the intersections, upgrades to the freeway interchange intersections, plus some water and sewer upgrades. In total, these road, water and sewer investments are estimated at roughly \$19.5M. They will be covered by grant monies. Regarding the foregone tax revenues, we are negotiating a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) with Gotion that would pay the Township for any additional costs related to emergency services.

57. Question: Parent stock falling - how is Gotion funding the Billion dollar project

Answer: Funding is being managed through Switzerland stock sales as well as traditional corporate funding methods. As of April 14, 2023, Gotion has a market cap of \$8B with last reported annual sales in excess of \$2.7B. Gotion is not a startup; they are a well-capitalized company employing over 14,000 people serving customers around the world.

58. How much impact is expected downstream from the Gotion plant, if an environmental incident were to happen.

Answer: There is minimal risk of any environmental incident like this questioner describes. This project will not negatively impact the Muskegon River, the Watershed or local air and water resources.

59. How much change to the environment is anticipated by simply implementing this manufacturing facility

Answer: This project will meet or exceed all of the relevant environmental standards, including by creating new wetlands to replace 1.5-2x any wetlands displaced by construction of this facility, somewhere in the Muskegon River Watershed.

60. How much of the groundwater, on and around the anticipated site makes it way to the well of the surrounding populace?

Answer: Local groundwater resources will not be negatively impacted by the project.

61. Are there studies of other such plants that the public could evaluated before any plans are implemented

Answer: The advanced battery industry has been around for 40 years, with many modern devices utilizing them—cell phones, laptops, power tools, lawn equipment, e-bikes, scooters, drones and more. More recently, advanced batteries have been used to power vehicles and provide energy storage for major wind and solar projects. There are several studies to consider:

- a) The EV Transition: Key Market and Supply Chain Enablers by Atlas Public Policy
- b) Battery 2030 by McKinsey
- c) <u>US Battery Boom</u> by Dallas Federal Reserve Board
- d) <u>Summary of Economic Impact</u> by Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
- 62. Is the Green Township Board prepared to make decisions that could very easily impact the people and property of the surrounding area to include any states that border the lakes that will be affected by incidents or accidents they allow into the neighborhood.

Answer: There will not be negative environmental impacts on any surrounding lakes as a result of this project.

63. Why would we welcome in one of the most corrupt regions like nazis in the world with highly un-humanity violence towards it own people to set up business here tax free for 30 years and exploit our people and resources.

Answer: No response warranted.

64. Who is going to police what goes on on the property?

Answer: The property will be bordered by a fence to deter any unauthorized entry. Security will be in place to monitor and control all activity.

65. Who has conflict of interest on the board? Must be reclused/removed.

Answer: One trustee and his brother own one piece of farmland. As is standard practice everywhere, that trustee has recused himself from any vote that relates to this project.

66. How are we going to make sure that 2.5 + million gallons of water will remain pure per year?

Answer: The manufacturing process and storage of materials will not compromise ground water.

67. Why would you do business with an enemy of our people.

Answer: No response warranted.

68. Who is going to clean up your mess

Answer: Like with any new construction, Gotion has been working with relevant authorities on studying all of the impacts that this facility will have on the local environment, and as that process plays out, we'll be sharing with stakeholders and the public all of the plans to protect the environment.

69. Who on the panel directly represents the portion of the general public concerned about the dangers this proposed plant presents?

Answer: The panel is responding directly to the questions and concerns raised by the general public. Answers will be provided via this forum and in writing, shared online via the Green Charter Township website.

70. If Chuck Thelen is the vice president of Gotion Inc., who then is the president of Gotion Inc?

Answer: The person responsible for all manufacturing in Big Rapids is Chuck Thelen, a Michigan native who attended Michigan schools. The person responsible for manufacturing in all of North America is Ray Chen, who is an American citizen who earned his Ph.D from Wayne State University.

71. How is Consumers guaranteeing green energy.

Answer: Consumers Energy is working with Gotion to fulfill the company's renewable energy needs.

72. How will Gotion's power draw effect our homes and electricity.

Answer: A separate substation will be installed on site of the manufacturing complex. The power consumed by the company will not impact the local power grid.

73. Where is the written and printed Gotion battery production State of Michigan environmental impact study for public review located online?

Answer: An environmental impact study will be completed and shared as part of the application for environmental permits to EGLE and EPA, which we expect to occur this summer.

74. Where is the written and printed Gotion battery production proposal for public review located online.

Answer: All public information is shared via the Green Charter Township website: greentownship.org

75. Please read allowed the entire question. Will there be public comments allowed? If not, explain why not. It appears they are concerned of what the public might say and why would they not want to get a feel for what this community my wants?

Answer: There are proper venues for public comment. Many have already occurred and more will present themselves. This is a panel discussion, not an open meeting. This is for the people to hear the insights of the panel members.

76. Please have Mr. Chuck Thelen speak to this group in regards to the repeal of the right to work. Will this affect the company, or the company's decision to come to Michigan? Please explain the company's position on this.

Answer: Gotion is enthusiastically committed to the Big Rapids area and the state of Michigan, and has been since choosing this site about six months ago. Gotion intends to show their empoloyees the respect they deserve by providing superior pay scales locally and ensuring their safety. If the employees feel as though they need to unionize, the company will first work with the employees to determine any shortcomings and ultimately respect their right to organized labor.

77. Please read the entire question before presenting it to the Representative Chuck Thelen. According to the company's application to the Michigan Economic Development. Corp. the average wage will be 62,000. Mr Chapman testified to the house and senate the average wage would be 52,000. And yet I believe both Thelen's testified the average wage would be 45,000. What in fact will be the average wage? What will be the wage of the average worker?

Answer: Average wage in the area is \$16.50/hr. Gotion will pay roughly \$24.50/hr for general labor, which equates to roughly \$45,000. When you add the benefit package of insurance, paid vacation and such, the total value is roughly \$60,000/yr. Supervisory and engineering positions will enjoy a higher compensation however that average stated is based on the entire plant, which will have roughly 90% of general labor for hands on operations.

78. Is this not treasonous to our country? Whitmer pledged \$700,000.00 for this battery plant. So, if the Chinese are not paying for it, and there is no tax revenue, and it is not clear whether they will be hiring Americans as employees, what's in it for our area?

Answer: This project aligns with state and federal goals to onshore critical industries that have long been centered overseas, including semiconductor chip and advanced battery manufacturing. As a result, we have witnessed a wave of major projects in each sector over the past year. For Big Rapids, this project offers the opportunity to play a leadership role in a rapid-growth, cutting-edge technology. As the auto industry goes through a massive restructuring, the Big Rapids community will be home to the tech that drives the next wave of the auto industry. In addition to the 2,000+ high wage jobs for area residents, the economic spinoff from the company operations and the income of the workers will have a very positive impact on the balance of the Big Rapids area.

79. Anyone listening to Central Dispatch on Saturday, March 25, 2023, could hear how frantic some of the dispatchers were, while multiple departments were paged for storm damages. How do you expect Central Dispatch and all the local Fire departments to respond if something happens at Gotion? Do you expect the local Fire Departments to fund the extra cost of the additional training that Gotion will require? Are you going to ask Green Township residents for an additional millage to cover fire coverage?

Answer: This site is not producing batteries. It is producing battery components with materials that are quite stable. Fire suppression will be on site. A redundant secondary fire suppression system will also be installed in case the primary system fails. Material Safety Data Sheets will be shared with the authorities identifying all materials in the plant and also indicating where on campus the materials can be found. Gotion is also currently negotiating with Green Township to pay an annual fee to support local EMS.

80. What other MI locations have been explored for the Gotion battery plant? Why isn't infill vs. Green Township green space utilized? Infilling would be better environmentally

Answer: This Michigan site, which has been for sale for industrial use for 25 years, was deemed to be the best balance of size, location, community, operational costs and available sustainable energy.

81. How, when, and in what form will Michigan taxpayers be reimbursed the 48% public funds capitalization that will be made to Gotion? What kind of reimbursement beyond Gotion hiring plant employees at \$25.00 per hour average wage, etc.

Answer: The incentive package takes two forms: grants and tax abatements. The grants will be used for infrastructure, site preparation, and construction activities all at the Big Rapids location. The tax abatements represent a waiver of future property taxes.

82. Where and what is the State of Michigan environmental impact study conclusion regarding building a Gotion plant at this location?

Answer: Environmental studies are conducted during the permit process. This has already begun in areas of wetland and site layout to ensure that rainwater runoff is managed. Citizens are protected through many permit submissions including air quality, water quality, continuing conformance plans, infrastructure and traffic patterns. As additional environmental studies and permitting work is completed it will be shared with the public.

83. How, when, and where will Gotion compensate for vegetation removal and land denigration on the proposed site?

Answer: There will be wetland mitigation for any activities that result from the project. We are committed to finding a location nearby that provides for a larger wetlands habitat to be developed.

84. Where and how does Gotion procure its raw materials for battery production? Several Chinese battery manufactures procure via unethical and environmentally unsustainable mining practices in Africa, etc. How can the public verify now and in the future that Gotion raw materials procurement is done in an ethically and environmentally sustainable manner?

Answer: Gotion secured a lithium <u>compound</u> supply from South America, in the northern part of Argentina. As for graphite that is readily available and multinational companies continue to plan to install North American facilities to produce this component. The main binder used for the graphite is a byproduct of manufacturing of blacktop, used in paving roads. Gotion will not be producing cathodes that utilize Nickel, Cobalt or Manganese which are the concerned elements found in Africa. <u>Gotion continues to explore high potential USA</u> suppliers of all materials to be used.

What air, ground, and groundwater pollution may be or could possibly be incurred from a Gotion battery plant located at the proposed Green Township location?

#### Answer: Answered previously.

87. What other MI locations have been explored for the Gotion battery plant?

Answer: After a high-level review of sizable sites across the eastern half of the United States, Gotion narrowed its search to 44 sites. They evaluated these sites in terms of talent availability both near- and long-term, proximity to utilities, easy access to freeway infrastructure, and partnership potential with area training and education institutions. Those 44 sites were narrowed to 14 and then down to three, with the Big Rapids community in the final three. The

state's support was a deciding factor in the final analysis to choose Green Township. No other Michigan location met their specifications.

88. Why isn't infill vs. Green Township green space utilized? Infilling would be better environmentally

Answer: Gotion's buildings are designed specifically for its process, meaning the building is designed around their equipment needs. It is near impossible to find an existing building that could accommodate our building requirements. Further, brownfield locations (land, not building) generally do not offer the land size necessary to accommodate our growth. This is common across the country as other battery and chip manufacturing plants being announced are choosing greenfield locations for similar reasons.

89. How, when, and in what form will Michigan taxpayers be reimbursed the 48% public funds capitalization that will be made to Gotion? What kind of reimbursement beyond Gotion hiring plant employees at \$25.00 per hour average wage, etc.

Answer: Answered earlier.

90. Where and what is the State of Michigan environmental impact study conclusion regarding building a Gotion plant at this location?

Answer: An environmental impact study will be completed and shared as part of the application for environmental permits to EGLE and EPA, which will occur later this year.

91. How, when, and where will Gotion compensate for vegetation removal and land denigration on the proposed site?

Answer: Any wetland impact will be mitigated at 1.5 to 2x the amount of wetlands impacted, meaning for every acre of wetlands impact, we will create 1.5 to 2 acres of wetlands at an offsite location to be determined. These sites will be placed within the Muskegon River Watershed.

92. Where and how does Gotion procure its raw materials for battery production? Several Chinese battery manufacturers procure via unethical and environmentally unsustainable mining practices in Africa, etc. How can the public verify now and in the future that Gotion raw materials procurement is done in an ethically and environmentally sustainable manner?

**Answer: Answered previously** 

93. What air, ground, and groundwater pollution may be or could possibly be incurred from a Gotion battery plant located at the proposed Green Township location?

**Answer: Answered previously** 

94. Why were we not allowed to vote on something of this magnitude that could affect so many in this community? We have questions and concerns for our air, water, land, and the Chinese influence that will be allowed to further infiltrate our community

Answer: Any action of the board to sell or transfer an asset is subject to the will of the people. In Green Township the land in question is the property of many separate, private individuals.

The State of Michigan is currently home to more than 50 Chinese-based corporations. Gotion will be a good neighbor to folks in the Big Rapids area just as companies like Nexteer are good neighbors in the areas where they are located.

95. What will the average wage be? What will the average wage be for the people working as general labor opposed to the non-general labor?

**Answer: Answered previously.** 

96. Has there been an environmental impact study done for this project? If so where can I find the results? If there hasn't been an Environmental Impact study done, why hasn't there been one?

Answer: An environmental impact study will be completed and shared as part of the preparation of this site with EGLE and EPA.

97. Since VW owns a big chunk of Gotion is it safe to assume the batteries will be made for VW EVs manufactured in Chattanooga TN? (makes Big Rapids a good location on US-131) If not, which vehicles will they be used in?

Answer: Gotion's customers are all based in North America. Gotion also is on track to achieve a nearly 50/50 split of auto and energy storage business, making its customer base one of the most diversified in the industry.

98. Please explain the "multiplier effect" & tell us how many total direct & indirect jobs will be created & how much local spending power will be created.

# **Answer: Answered previously**

99. Please reflect on how the Gotion plant could be an opportunity to be pioneers in a new industry & attract the best & brightest engineers & innovators from all over the world

Answer: Gotion is a global, high-tech battery systems leader, with thousands of patents having been developed. The company has led the industry in many ways and looks forward to growing that leadership position. Gotion aspires to build a strong working relationship with area high schools, community colleges and universities to develop the best and brightest engineering talent. The auto industry is undergoing the greatest transformation since its launch 100 years ago and Gotion intends to help lead this effort with the Big Rapids operation.

100. What effect will the plant have on roads compared to the huge potash mine in Evart? Isn't new infrastructure part of the total deal?

Answer: Gotion chose its location to be immediately adjacent to the freeway interchange so it can minimize its impact on local roadways. Improvements will be made to the local roads (220th and 18 Mile) as well as the intersections.

101. why build this plant on farm land? let's build it in the city of detroit where we have the utilities, land and labor available, and it will not disturb a rural community

Answer: The largest portion of our site involves an existing business operation. Another large parcel is used as a personal hiking/ATV trail, with only about 15% of the site currently used for farming. Roughly 75% of the land was already zoned industrial, with the balance noted in the Master Plan as prime industrial location. Gotion picked Big Rapids because they appreciate the local people, the easy freeway accessibility, the utility infrastructure, and the partnership with Ferris State University. Gotion chose this location to be a partner with a community that has great potential and where local residents have a great work ethic.

102. Could you please provide a brief summary of other investments in Michigan from Chinese companies? Please highlight any community issues or impacts with these, whether positive or negative. Thank you.

Answer: According to Dow Jones, there are 52 Chinese companies with operations in Michigan, making China 4th among countries with business operations in the state: the top five being Germany, Canada, Japan, China, France. The largest multinational company with Chinese roots is Nexteer, which operates a sizable automotive operation in Saginaw.

103. Where will the 2-300 international trainers be from? How long is training expected to take? Where will they be housed during the training period? How many trainers will stay on

Answer: There will not be 300 international trainers coming to Big Rapids to support this project. A total estimated between 25 - 50 expert consultants will come into the plant to help set up processes and train American workers. American workers hired early to be trained as specialists will travel to another Gotion location for training. It is estimated that the 25-50 consultants will depart within a year in conjunction with the plant becoming efficient in its operations.

104. What assurances can you give that groundwater intrusion or surface water discharge will not occur from manufacturing activities that might compromise the aquifer or Muskegon River?

Answer: Local, state and federal officials are working collaboratively with Gotion to be sure that nothing will be done to compromise local water resources.

105. \*What raw materials are needed to make 1 ton of anodes and 1 ton of cathodes? Since the lant is projected to make 50,000 tons of anodes annually (4,167 tons monthly) and 550,000 tons of cathodes (45,834 tons) monthly, how much raw material will be on site or in storage for continuous production? What mode(s) of transportation will be utilized for bringing the raw materials for the point of origin to the plant air, water, rail, truck or all 3? What waste products are produced from generating 1 ton of anodes? 1 ton of cathodes? How will it be disposed of?

# **Answer: Answered previously**

106. How many trucks will be entering and exiting the plant on a daily basis Withmany treacherous and fragile condition of Michigan roads in the spring, frost laws limit truck weight. Gotion will be utilizing millions of pounds of raw material per month. How will this impact our roads? How will Gotion keep the massive quantity of raw material available during the weeks/months that the frost laws are in effect?

Answer: The site will be served with Class A, all-weather roads routing from the site directly to the freeway.

107. I want to know where you came up with this percentage that 90-95% of Green Township residents agree with you and this project.

Answer: This was a subjective estimate based on personal contact at the hall from folks from all persuasions. Also from calls, emails, and other contacts. Those percentages have varied since the onset of more vocal opposition, though there still seems to be a very solid majority of Green Twp. residents in favor of the project.

108. Can we get this topic voted on

**Answer: Answered previously.** 

109. How will contamination be monitored for air, water and soil surrounding the plant? Will Gotion or the EPA monitor the Air? Water? Soil? How frequently? Should contamination be detected, who is responsible for clean-up?

Answer: Answered previously.

110. What level of direct and indirect emissions will be produced and how will it be monitored to assure we maintain our air quality?

**Answer: Answered previously.** 

111. Where are the raw materials sourced

**Answer: Answered previously.** 

112. Will hazmat drivers be needed to transport the unfinished product on highways and rail?

Answers: Logistics planning is still in process, but none are expected.

113. What rail location will receive the unfinished product?

Answer: This has not yet been determined, but sites under consideration are more than 50 miles from Big Rapids.

114. What are anticipated noise levels?

**Answer: Answered previously** 

115. What type of energy will heat this massive project and provide needed electric energy?

Answer: Consumers Energy will provide electricity to the site, and will ensure there is no impact to the local energy grid.

116. Should we be concerned about blackouts?

Answer: No one should be concerned about any negative impacts to the local power grid because of the proposed plant. In fact, Consumers Energy will upgrade high voltage and low voltage lines to support the project's temporary and permanent needs. Beyond the project's needs, Gotion will improve reliability in this area by upgrading poles, lines and equipment and installing a new substation.

117. Will this facility operate 24/7?

Answer: Manufacturing is a continuous process. Gotion currently plans to operate 24/6.

118. 1) What is Gotion's anticipated daily water usage? Will Gotion have to go thru the water permitting process?

**Answer: Answered previously** 

- 119. 2) If water is used in the manufacturing process
  - What chemicals will be in the discarded water?

Answer: Chemicals are not discarded in the water. As noted earlier, no discharged water ever touches the battery materials in the process.

• Where and how will the discarded water be processed and disposed of?

Answer: Any waste water will be pretreated on site and sent to municipal sewage systems.

120. 1) What chemicals or toxins will be used and/or created in the manufacturing process and how much will be released into the atmosphere? Are these chemicals harmful to humans or wildlife and if yes – at what levels?

**Answer: Answered previously** 

121. Will the streams and wetlands at or near the Gotion property fall under the protection of the EPA under today's definition(Biden)? Will the streams and wetlands at or near the Gotion property fall under the protection of the EPA if the definition of WOTUS is changed to be less inclusive (congressional legislation)?

Answer: No, EGLE has the primary jurisdiction over streams and wetlands on the site in question, with oversight by the US EPA.

- 122. I heard 35,000 gallons of water per hour are needed.
  - a. Where is this water coming from?

Answer: Gotion will be using well water.

b. Once processed, where does it go?

Answer: Wastewater will go to the sewage system after onsite pretreatment.

c. What environmental protections are in place?

Answer: Gotion will meet or exceed all relevant local, EGLE and EPA regulations.

d. How are you protecting the public from toxic waste when our infrastructure in Big Rapids can't support this type of industrial traffic.

Answer: There is no toxic waste associated with this project.

123. With several lithium EV factories already in Michigan, why in Big Rapids?

Answer: Over the past year, the country has witnessed a wave of major battery and EV assembly facilities. These locations have concentrated in the eastern half of the US, from Georgia up through Michigan. The demand for advanced batteries is extraordinary, and it's not just being driven by electric vehicles and renewable energy storage. Michigan has seen this growth opportunity and has sought out the projects to help stabilize and grow the manufacturing base. Further, this site will not be manufacturing Electric Vehicles or even finished batteries, it will be producing battery components.

124. A former water plant worker said there were 4 main BR city aquifers underground at the build site. Is this true?

Answer: According to city water officials, the city aquifers are approximately 150 feet below the surface.

125. A. There are loud cries from opposers that Gotion is owned by and controlled by the communist party, and they will use community resources to "spy" on US citizens and infiltrate and impose communist rule over our community. (Ridiculous, but this is what has been loudly claimed.) What is the truth regarding this topic?

Answer: There is no CCP ownership of Gotion, Inc or Gotion High-Tech.

B. Have they imposed communist rule on other plants/communities located in the US and worldwide (outside of China)?

Answer: Gotion has operated in the US for nearly 10 years in California and Ohio, and is proud of that track record. No sites worldwide have had their operations modified or interrogated by the CCP

126. A.Will Gotion be required to follow local, state and national environmental regulations? Seems like a no-brainer, but opposers contend that Gotion will most certainly ignore EPA rules and regulations.

Answer: Gotion will meet or exceed all environmental regulations and employ industry best

practices.

B. Has there been or will there be official input by the EPA on this plant?

Answer: Yes the EPA has oversight of all air and water quality permit submissions.

C. Have there been any environmental issues at other Gotion US locations that we should be aware of?

Answer: There are no environmental issues at any Gotion site worldwide.

D. Exactly what chemicals/materials will be used at the plant and how might any intended or unintended discharge of these chemicals endanger the local environment, especially the water table and the river that flows through Big Rapids.

**Answer: Answered previously.** 

E. Statements have been made by opposers to the plant that lithium pools will be present on the property. This is based on the drawing of the plant that depicts "gray buildings" that opposers claim are covered lithium pools. Will lithium pools be present on the plant property?

Answer: This rumor is completely false. No materials will be stored outside or in a manner that has any possibility of polluting our environment

127. A. Please elaborate on how Gotion will work with local officials to design the facility access in a way that will not overburden the traffic patterns in the proposed location.

Answer: In the weeks ahead, Gotion will submit a formal site plan for consideration. The site plan will highlight our proposed ingress/egress to the site. Gotion chose the location intentionally to limit the truck/car interactions and focus the traffic flow to the freeway interchange at 19 Mile Road.

B. Where will the funding come from to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to support the plant? Opposers claim that Big Rapids area taxpayers will bear the cost. The State is awarding incentives that include the coverage of needed infrastructure improvements.

Answer: Answered previously.

C. What positive results will occur once the planned infrastructure changes happen?

**Answer: Answered previously.** 

128. Do you continue to maintain that Gotion, Inc., has no CCP connection and/or influence?

Answer: Gotion <u>Inc</u> has no CCP connections and/or influence. In fact, Gotion voluntarily submitted information to a US Treasury Department panel to review whether there were any national security concerns related to a similar project elsewhere in the United States. After an extensive four-week independent review, the panel found no concerns and gave the company the green light to proceed with the project <u>in the southern US. The CFIUS for Big Rapids is expected to conclude mid May.</u>

Is it accurate that Gotion, Inc. is a subsidiary of Gotion High-tech, Ltd. and the CEO of Gotion, Inc., is Li Chen?

Answer: Chen Li is the head of Gotion INC but is NOT the CEO and Chairman of Gotion High- Tech

Is it also true that Li Chen and his father, Li Zhen, are members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)?

Answer: I have not seen evidence of this claim. The CFIUS declarations include all information about the top leadership and of the Board of Directors members.

Is it true that VW-China has irrevocably given up their voting rights to the Founding Shareholders of Gotion, Li Chen and Li Zhen?

Answer: That is not true. Four of the nine board members are VW representatives.

129. Is the plant making actual batteries?

Answer: No, the plant makes battery components.

130. How many acres are being purchased for this project?

Answer: Roughly 500 acres are planned for the project.

131. A local community member is claiming that all the property is zoned agricultural and that it is being rezoned to industrial. How many acres being purchased are currently already zoned Industrial?

Answer: All property that will be used in initial builds is currently zoned industrial. There are about 80 acres zoned agricultural that, over time, may be subject rezoning. Three very small parcels are not zoned industrial and those locations totaling less than 5 acres will be requested to be rezoned to industrial.

132. Is the twp asking to rezone any property not part of the Gotion project, as Industrial. An example: a person's property near but not being purchased by Gotion.

Answer: All zoning in Green Township is currently handled by Mecosta County, not Green Township. That said, a person's offsite property would not be affected by the purchase or rezoning of nearby land.

133. A recent flier stated that the plant already plans to increase its initial footprint by 1/3 (around 3 million sq feet). Is this true?

Answer: Total building under roof is planned to be just under 3 million sq feet.

In the local newspaper (The Pioneer) I saw that the earliest News article was on October 5th of 2022. When was this project first announced to the public and local residents? Where?

Answer: The first public meeting was a joint meeting of Mecosta County, Big Rapids Charter Township and Green Charter Township on September 26, 2022. Since that time, there have been approximately 10 public meetings to date, including several special meetings and Green Township's recent online forum to answer questions from the community.

135. Will the employees of this plant be forced to join the communist party? Have any employees at Gotion Inc's North America other two current facilities force employees to join the communist party. Will employees be forced to speak Chinese?

Answer: No Gotion employees in California, Ohio, or Michigan have been or will be forced to join a political party or learn a new language.

136. ... what is the plan, what resources will be added locally, to the surrounding area, and what resources would be called in from surrounding areas. From where? .....

Answer: Not enough specific information to answer this question.

137. Have you surveyed the site for threatened or endangered species? If not, why?

Answer: The site has been reviewed by state recognized environmental consultants and not found any issues, but Gotion continues to investigate. Gotion has also conducted a geotechnical study to confirm that the area is all sandy loam and is acceptable for this construction.

138. 1. What residuals will result from Gotion Battery Plant production? How, where, and when will production residuals be deposed of? Will they be disposed of on a safe, regular basis? Are these residuals contaminants in any way that would affect the water, air, ground, vegetation, animal or human life? How will the residuals be monitored? Will the residuals be monitored and disposed of in a strict manner like State of California regulations

Answer: All waste will be handled in a way that meets or exceeds all state, local and federal

#### laws and regulations.

Your message: What specific safety measures, protocols, contingency plans, and 139. emergency response procedures has Green Township, in collaboration with the relevant state and federal agencies, established and implemented to ensure the safety of workers, the community, and the environment during the construction and operation of the EV battery manufacturing plant in the rural area of Big Rapids, Michigan, considering the potential safety risks associated with the manufacturing process, the limited fire and safety resources in the area, and the concerns and feedback of the community? In your answer, please provide additional details, such as: A description of the safety risk assessment conducted by Green Township, and big rapids township and big rapids for the EV battery manufacturing plant and the surrounding area, including the identified risks, mitigation measures, and monitoring protocols. A list of the safety standards, regulations, and guidelines established by Goation, for the EV battery manufacturing plant, and how they will be enforced. How they will be audited for compliance and frequency? Due to green township not having this type of manufacturer in the area, locally enacted regulations are not in place that larger communities with these type of manufacturers have.. does green township have plans to enact additional regulations locally to ensure the safety and oversight of this type of manufacturer to reduce chances of a disaster situation, or are we going to hope for the best and enact things after any potential disaster, (reactionary governance approach rather than proactive governance approach) An explanation of the safety equipment, technology, and training programs implemented in the EV battery manufacturing plant to minimize the risk of fire, explosion, and chemical exposure, including their effectiveness and maintenance protocols. A description of the measures taken by Gotion AND Green Township to prevent environmental contamination during the manufacturing process, and how the safe disposal of hazardous materials will be ensured. A detailed overview of the emergency response plans and procedures established by Gotion and Green Township in case of a safety incident, such as a large-scale fire, explosion, or chemical leak at the EV battery manufacturing plant, including the resources, capabilities, and responsibilities of the response team. An explanation of how Gotion and Green Township will ensure that the community is informed and involved in safety planning and preparedness, and how their feedback and concerns will be addressed and incorporated into the safety measures and protocols An explanation of how the community being rural will receive emergency information, in the event of an emergency?

Answer: This facility will be producing battery components, not finished EV batteries. Some of Gotion's customers are auto manufacturers, but many produce other kinds of advanced batteries. That said, all relevant authorities and Gotion will ensure that there's minimal risk of any safety or environmental issues at the plant, as at all Gotion's other facilities, and the public will be involved throughout the development of these measures.

140. What impact will the plant have on night sky light pollution? Will you commit to mitigating the effects of the light pollution in your plant design and outdoor lighting choices?

Answer: The parking lot will be lighted for employee safety and overall security reasons. Gotion intends to follow best practice lighting techniques that provide a safe environment for its employees while minimizing light pollution. Gotion will partner with Consumers Energy to help ensure that all energy conservation methods are used and the impact on the community is limited.

141. It's been said that Gotion Big Rapids will have its own safety and or fire response team? What will that entail or look like? Will that team be a ready response team for fire/other emergencies stand alone team? Or will they be employees working in the factory with fire response and emergency response training and certification?

Answer: The company will have full fire suppression systems with redundancy. Containment procedures will be fully defined and adhered to. Gotion will have an EHS team of trained professionals in place, and its own security team.

142. What country or state will lithium, cobalt, nickel, and any other compound or chemicals used in this factory come from? Where will they enter the state of Michigan and what will be the transportation mode coming to Michigan and being transported within Michigan?

Answer: Lithium <u>compounds</u> will come from the USA and Argentina. No cobalt or nickel is planned at this site. All other materials will be pursued to be supplied from local, state and other American sources. Any material not available will be addressed from global supply, but this is not a preferred method.

143. I have read that Gotion plans to use "sustainable energy" at the Big Rapids plant. What will that look like? Will it be solar? Will it be wind? Something different? How will Consumers Energy and Gotion prepare and implement those?

#### **Answer: Answered previously**

I would like to know why this can't be a public vote? What/who decides what the people will vote on and what the board members will vote on?

## **Answer: Answered previously**

145. Please comment on the Big Rapids Township Survey that was sent out. Questions very biased, poorly written, unprofessional survey. Given this, What, if anything can be gathered from the overall 50/50 results?

Answer: We know that everyone in this area loves their local community, which is why this project has inspired such passionate conversations since Gotion chose it six months ago. Those conversations have happened publicly, and we're committed to even more public conversations as this process continues.

146. "If we allocate farm land for industrial use and also add incentives of 30 years tax exemption and a substantial amount of front money, then why not at least offer to an American -owned company?"

Answer: This investment will lift up local families and the entire area. Gotion was looking at sites all over the United States and selected the Big Rapids area because of our strong work ethic, opportunities to partner with Ferris State's world class industrial tech programs, and the build-ready industrial site in Green Township that the local community has been working to prepare for 25 years.

147. Who solicited whom:Did Randy Thelen of the Right Place contact his cousin Chuck Thelon of Gotion of the other way around

Answer: Chuck Thelen contacted Bill Stanek of Big Rapids Township. Bill called in MEDC and they contacted The Right Place. Chuck began working with Brent Case from The Right Place. Chuck was then introduced to Randy Thelen. This call was the first time that Chuck Thelen ever interacted with Randy Thelen and there was no knowledge of any family relationship. After several months, it was discovered that Randy and Chuck are distant cousins. As the project scope expanded, Green Township officials were engaged.

148. Will you support a referendum of the two townships if not why not [whole panel]

Answer: Answered previously.

149. What is your understanding of why the whole process of recruiting the China affiliated company to our community was so secretive and non transparent

**Answer: Answered previously.** 

150. Why are you letting those out of towners bring them to our town?

Answer: Answered previously.

151. I would like to know why this can't be a public vote? What/who decides what the people will vote on and what the board members will vote on?

**Answer: Answered previously**