

DANIEL J. RUZICK, Supervisor
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Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., Thurs.
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 7:00 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday: Closed
Closed for lunch M, T, W, Th
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

March 17, 2023

Senator Aric Nesbitt
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

RE: Consumers Energy 20-mile High Voltage Powerline Antwerp Township, Van Buren County

Aric,

On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Antwerp Township Board of Trustees held a regularly scheduled meeting wherein we heard opposition to the proposed Crandall High Voltage Line in Van Buren County. Residents of Antwerp Township, along with residents of Almena, Paw Paw, and Lawrence Townships were all present to state their opposition.

Antwerp citizens, by and large, are objecting to the placement of Consumer's powerlines because of safety concerns, reduced property values, and the negative impact on Portman Preserve. The preserve offers 189 acres of high-quality prairie fen, wetland, savanna and woodland habitats. It is blessed with water from three lakes, a creek, and hundreds of springs. The area is also home to an astounding number of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. The inventory includes 447 types of plants, over 20 types of mammals, 107 types of birds, more than 24 types of reptiles and amphibians, and at least 35 types of butterflies. A high voltage line coming even close to this habitat would certainly be detrimental.

While we understand you no longer represent Antwerp Township, we are reaching out to you as the AEP/Indiana Michigan Power substation facility we are seeking negotiations be made within your district. We would like to see you, State Representative Wendzel, and Senator McCann to encourage AEP/Indiana Michigan Power and Consumers Energy to renegotiate the use of the AEP substation located in Lawrence instead of constructing a new high voltage line throughout Van Buren County. We understand the complexities of this with State and Federal requirements and regulations but call upon you to facilitate change to this project.

Enclosed please find our resolution opposing this project and the drafted letter to Consumers Energy requesting the renegotiation with AEP/Indiana Power to use the substation facility in Lawrence, Michigan.

I am available by phone at 269-668-2615 or email druzick@antwerptownship.com.

Respectfully,



Daniel J. Ruzick
Antwerp Township Supervisor