

# STATEMENT

*In the State Senate, Kristen McDonald-Rivet opposed legislation that would have required energy infrastructure to be manufactured in the United States. She even voted to give one-hundred and seventy-five million dollars of Michigan taxpayers' money to a Chinese manufacturing company tied to the Chinese Communist Party.*

## Verification

### Senate Bill 271

#### **Rivet Voted Against An Amendment To Senate Bill 271 Requiring All Renewable Energy Infrastructure Built Under The Legislation To Be Manufactured In The United States**

#### **Rivet Voted Against Senator Lindsey's Amendment Requiring All Renewable Energy Infrastructure Built Under The Legislation To Be Manufactured In The United States.**

(SB 271 – Lindsey Amendment, [Roll Call #620](#), Failed: 18 – 20, Rivet Voted Nay, 10/26/23)

In The Chair: Moss			
Senator Lindsey offered the following amendments:			
1. Amend page 16, line 2, by striking out "use" and inserting "uses".			
2. Amend page 16, line 3, after "steam" by inserting "and that, if installed after the effective date of the amendatory act that added section 51, was manufactured in the United States".			
The question being on the adoption of the amendments,			
Senator Lauwers requested the yeas and nays.			
The yeas and nays were ordered, 1/5 of the members present voting therefor.			
The amendments were not adopted, a majority of the members serving not voting therefor, as follows:			
<b>Roll Call No. 620</b>		<b>Yeas—18</b>	
Albert	Hauck	Lindsey	Runestad
Bellino	Hoitenga	McBroom	Theis
Bumstead	Huizenga	Nesbitt	Victory
Daley	Johnson	Outman	Webber
Damoose	Lauwers		
		<b>Nays—20</b>	
Anthony	Chang	Klinefelt	Polehanki
Bayer	Cherry	McCann	Santana
Brinks	Geiss	McDonald Rivet	Shink
Camilleri	Hertel	McMorrow	Singh
Cavanagh	Irwin	Moss	Wojno

(SB 271 – Lindsey Amendment, [Roll Call #620](#), Failed: 18 – 20, Rivet Voted Nay, 10/26/23)

**Every Democrat Voted Against An Amendment From Senator Jonathan Lindsey To Require All Renewable Energy Infrastructure To Be Built In The United States.** “If Democrats' Green New Deal becomes law, it will require millions of solar panels, which are almost exclusively built in China. Every Senate Democrat just voted NO on an amendment from Sen. Jonathan Lindsey to require all renewable energy infrastructure be built in the USA.” (MI Senate GOP, [Twitter](#), 10/26/23)



## **The Amendment Offered By Senator Jonathan Lindsey Would Have Added Language To Senate Bill 271, Requiring Infrastructure To Be Manufactured In The United States.**

“1. Amend page 16, line 2, by striking out ‘use’ and inserting ‘uses’. 2. Amend page 16, line 3, after ‘steam’ by inserting ‘and that, if installed after the effective date of the amendatory act that added section 51, was manufactured in the United States’.” (“2023 Senate Bill 271 / Public Act 235,” [Michigan Votes](#), Accessed: 1/25/24)

▼ Amendment offered by Sen. Jonathan Lindsey (R-17)

1. Amend page 16, line 2, by striking out “use” and inserting “uses”.
2. Amend page 16, line 3, after “steam” by inserting “and that, if installed after the effective date of the amendatory act that added section 51, was manufactured in the United States”.

The amendment failed 18 to 20 ([details](#))

(“2023 Senate Bill 271 / Public Act 235,” [Michigan Votes](#), Accessed: 1/25/24)

## **Gotion Agreement**

### **In April 2023, Rivet Voted To Give Final Legislative Approval And Awarded Gotion Inc. A \$715-Million Incentive Package, Including A 30-Year Tax Break Valued At \$540 Million And Grants Totaling \$175 Million**

**Rivet Reportedly Voted In Favor Of The Funding.** “Democratic state senators Sarah Anthony, Sean McCann, Kristen McDonald Rivet, John Cherry, Sue Shink, Kevin Hertel, Darrin Camilleri, Veronica Klinefelt, Mallory McMorro and Mary Cavanagh all voted yea to get the funding passed.” (J.P. Isbell, “How Michigan’s Senators Voted on Gotion Funding,” [Michigan News Source](#), 4/25/23)

- **NOTE:** *The vote appears to [have occurred](#) on 4/20/23. There does not appear to be recorded journal for votes for committees in Michigan. Video from the committee hearing can be [found here](#). The votes begin at 57:40. Senator Rivet votes at 57:48.*

### **Rivet Voted In Favor Of The Transfer Request To MEDC, Legislative Transfer Request 2023-1.** ([Michigan Senate Appropriations](#), Legislative Transfer Request 2023-1, Passed: 10-9, Rivet voted Yes, 4/20/23) Minute: 57:48

**In April 2023, A Michigan Senate Committee Gave Final Legislative Approval To Allocate \$175 Million In State Funds To A Factory Planned By Chinese Manufacturer Gotion.** “LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan Senate committee gave final legislative approval to allocate \$175 million in state funds to a factory planned by Chinese manufacturer Gotion in northern Michigan that proponents say will create thousands of jobs and be a boon for the local economy.” (Joey Cappelletti, “Michigan Committee Gives \$175 Million For EV Battery Plant,” [Associated Press](#), 4/20/23)

**Michigan Awarded Gotion Inc. A \$715-Million Incentive Package, Including A 30-Year Tax Break Valued At \$540 Million And Grants Totaling \$175 Million.** “Michigan has awarded the investment a \$715-million incentive package, including a 30-year tax break valued at \$540 million and grants totaling \$175 million.” (Rose White, “Hundreds Rally At Michigan Horse Farm To Oppose Gotion Battery Plant,” [Michigan Live](#), 4/22/23)

### **In 2024, Rivet Refused To Say If She Regretted Her Decision To Support The Proposed Gotion Plant In Big Rapids**

**In January 2024, Rivet Refused To Say If She Regretted Her Decision To Support The Proposed Gotion Plant In Big Rapids.** “The Midwesterner attempted unsuccessfully to reach state Sen. Kristen McDonald Rivet, D-Bay City, multiple times to determine if she regretted her decision to support the proposed Gotion plant in Big Rapids, which would be located in relative proximity to the Grayling National Guard facility.” (Bruce Edward Walker, “CCP Gotion, CATL, Four Other Chinese Battery Companies Banned From U.S. Military Bases,” [The Midwesterner](#), 1/23/24)

### **In October 2022, Gotion Announced Plans To Spend \$2.36 Billion On A Battery Components Plant In Big Rapids, Michigan**

**In October 2022, Gotion Announced Plans To Spend \$2.36 Billion On A Battery Components Plant In Big Rapids, Michigan.** “Global battery manufacturer Gotion announced plans Wednesday to spend \$2.36 billion on a battery components plant in Big Rapids, creating 2,350 new jobs. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called it ‘the biggest ever economic development project in Northern Michigan’ and said the plant further cements the state's position as a leader in electric vehicle manufacturing. Gotion is based in China. The company works on research, development, production and sale of lithium ion batteries used in a variety of vehicle applications.” (Ryan Jeltema, “Gotion announces plans for \$2.36 billion battery component plant in Big Rapids,” [ABC 12 News](#), 10/5/22)

**In March 2023, The Democrat-Led Michigan House Appropriations Committee Authorized The Transfer Of \$585 Million In State Funding, Including \$175 Million To Gotion, Without Republican Support**

**In March 2023, The Democratic-Led House Appropriations Committee Authorized, Without Republican Support, The Transfer Of \$585 Million In State Funding To Support Gotion And Two Other Battery Factories.** “Lawmakers on Wednesday authorized the transfer of \$585 million in state funding to support three new multibillion-dollar electric vehicle battery factories in Michigan. The Democratic-led House Appropriations Committee supported the incentives on a 16-12 party-line vote, with Republicans opposed.” (David Eggert, “Lawmakers authorize \$585 million for Ford, Gotion, Our Next Energy EV battery plants in Michigan,” [Crain's Detroit Business](#), 3/15/23)

**The Funding Included \$175 Million To Support Gotion's Nearly \$2.4 Billion EV Battery Factory, \$125 Million Of Which Is A Grant To Gotion And \$50 Million Is For The Right Place Inc., A Regional Economic Development Organization.** “\$175 million to support Gotion Inc.'s nearly \$2.4 billion, 2,350-job EV battery factory near Big Rapids. Of that, \$125 million is a grant to Gotion and \$50 million is for The Right Place Inc., a regional economic development organization based in Grand Rapids, to make infrastructure upgrades in support of the project. The MSF in October also awarded China-based Gotion a 30-year tax break worth \$540 million.” (David Eggert, “Lawmakers authorize \$585 million for Ford, Gotion, Our Next Energy EV battery plants in Michigan,” [Crain's Detroit Business](#), 3/15/23)

**The Democrat-Controlled Senate Appropriations Committee Must Also Approve The Project.** “The Democratic-controlled Senate Appropriations Committee also must approve the transfer before the money can be disbursed. The state's economic development board previously blessed the spending.” (David Eggert, “Lawmakers authorize \$585 million for Ford, Gotion, Our Next Energy EV battery plants in Michigan,” [Crain's Detroit Business](#), 3/15/23)

### **Chinese Communist Party Ties**

**Rivet Dismissed Concerns Regarding Gotion's Ties To China, Claiming That Many Companies In Michigan Had Ties To The Chinese Government, And Claimed That Gotion's Ties To The Chinese Communist Party Was “A Huge Amount Of Misinformation”**

**Rivet Claimed That Concerns Regarding The Gotion Funding Were “Misinformation” And “Baseless.”** “‘Political games and politics should never get in the way of people's jobs. Our office was inundated with messages from local residents asking us to approve this transfer,’ McDonald Rivet said. ‘Responsible people at local, state and federal levels have done their due diligence. There are facts and there are fabrications. Misinformation and baseless claims might serve the politicians spreading them, but they don't serve people looking for better. They don't offer opportunities or solutions to people who really need them. What Michigan needs most are family-sustaining jobs. It's my responsibility to do everything I can to make that happen.’” (Cathie Crew, “Lawmakers Vote “Yes” To Move \$175 Million For Gotion Battery Plan,” [Big Rapids News](#), 4/21/23)

**Rivet Claimed That Gotion's Ties To The Chinese Communist Party Was “A Huge Amount Of Misinformation.”** “At that time, Rivet, a member of the Michigan Senate Appropriations Committee responsible for approving a \$175 million taxpayer incentive to Gotion,

claimed there was ‘a huge amount of misinformation’ spread about the battery company’s CCP and PRC ties. The newspaper quoted her as ‘saying she was ‘satisfied’ voting yes after thorough vetting of Gotion done by the federal government.’” (Bruce Edward Walker, “CCP Gotion, CATL, Four Other Chinese Battery Companies Banned From U.S. Military Bases,” [The Midwesterner](#), 1/23/24)

**Rivet Dismissed Concerns, Claiming That Many Companies In Michigan Had Ties To The Chinese Government.** “‘There are many companies in this state that have ties to the Chinese government,’ she said. ‘I was satisfied to vote yes for a couple of reasons. It creates jobs in a region that desperately needs them, it was thoroughly vetted from a security perspective by the federal government, it has done its environment due diligence, and I was inundated with calls from local residents asking me to vote yes.’” (Bruce Edward Walker, “CCP Gotion, CATL, Four Other Chinese Battery Companies Banned From U.S. Military Bases,” [The Midwesterner](#), 1/23/24)

**Gotion’s Parent Company, Gotion High-Tech, Is Based In China, Which Critics Have Said Could Present A National Security Threat. Furthermore, The Articles Of Association For The Group’s Parent Company Required That It “Carry Out Party Activities In Accordance With The Constitution Of The Communist Party Of China”**

**While Gotion Inc. Is Located In California, Its Parent Company — Gotion High-Tech — Is Based In China, Which Critics Have Said Could Present A National Security Threat.** “While Gotion Inc. is located in California, its parent company — Gotion High-tech — is based in China, which critics have said could present a national security threat. The pushback comes at a time when U.S. lawmakers are considering a ban of TikTok due to its Chinese connections and concerns over data security.” (Joey Cappelletti, “Michigan Committee Gives \$175 Million For EV Battery Plant,” [Associated Press](#), 4/20/23)

**Gotion Inc.’s Parent Company, Gotion High-Tech, Is Based In China, Where Companies Are Facing Increased Pressure To Work In Sync With The Chinese Communist Party (CCP).** “Gotion Inc. is a U.S.-based company, but its parent company, Gotion High-Tech, is based in China, where companies are facing increased pressure to work in sync with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Critics say Michigan shouldn’t take the risk of allowing a battery company with ties to China to set up shop here, working in the critical Electric vehicle realm.” (Paula Gardner, “Gotion Controversy Tests Longstanding Michigan-China Economic Ties,” [Michigan Bridge](#), 4/19/23)

**As Recently As July 2022, The Articles Of Association For The Group’s Parent Company, Gotion High Tech, Require That The Company “Carry Out Party Activities In Accordance With The Constitution Of The Communist Party Of China.”** “Thelen’s submission comes as at least two other government bodies say they’ve filed requests with the committee for national security risk reviews of the project amid concerns over the company’s links to China. As recently as July 2022, the articles of association for the group’s parent company, Gotion High Tech, require that the company ‘carry out party activities in accordance with the constitution of the Communist Party of China.’” (Beth Leblanc, “Chinese Battery Parts Maker Submits To Federal Review For Big Rapids Project,” [The Detroit News](#), 4/5/23)

**Lines Are Blurred With Chinese Organizations And Companies Between What Is Private And What Is State Owned And Under Chinese Law, All Chinese Organizations Are Required To ‘Maintain National Security’**

**It Is Difficult To Distinguish Between What Is Private And What Is State-Owned In China.** “Chinese domestic laws and administrative guidelines, as well as unspoken regulations and internal party committees, make it quite difficult to distinguish between what is private and what is state-owned.” (Ashley Feng, “We Can’t Tell If Chinese Firms Work For The Party,” [Foreign Policy](#), 2/7/19)

**Under Chinese Law, All Chinese Organizations Are Required To ‘Maintain National Security.’** “The National Security Law requires all parties, including citizens, state authorities, public institutions, social organizations, and enterprises, ‘to maintain national security.’” (Ashley Feng, “We Can’t Tell If Chinese Firms Work For The Party,” [Foreign Policy](#), 2/7/19)



**Under The National Intelligence Law Of 2017, Every Chinese Organization Or Citizen Must Support, Assist, And Cooperate With National Intelligence Work.** “The National Intelligence Law of 2017 was an important milestone. It instructs every organization or citizen to support, assist, and cooperate with national intelligence work, building upon the legal framework set forth by both the national security and cybersecurity laws.” (Ashley Feng, “We Can’t Tell If Chinese Firms Work For The Party,” [Foreign Policy](#), 2/7/19)

### **Gotion’s Founder Li Zhen Is A Former Chinese Government Employee And Has Discussed Electric Vehicle Batteries With Chinese Leader Xi Jinping**

**Gotion’s Founder Li Zhen Is A Former Chinese Government Employee And Participant In The Local Communist Government Leadership.** “Aside from that as a requirement for doing business in China, the company’s founder, Li Zhen, is a former government employee and participant in the local communist government leadership. According to Moomoo Technologies, he was ‘a researcher at the Economic Research Center of the Hefei Municipal Government,’ and a ‘delegate to the 13th, 14th, and 15th sessions of the Hefei Municipal People’s Congress.’” (Kyle Olson, “MI-Funded Battery Maker Mandates Allegiance To ‘Constitution Of The Party Of China,’ Company Bylaws Say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)

**Zhen Has Experience In Chinese Government Agencies And Recounted An Interaction With Chinese President Xi Jinping Regarding Electric Vehicle Batteries.** “A video posted in 2015 by Gotion shed more light on Li Zhen’s access and influence in the CCP. The Gotion founder says, ‘I used to work in the government and also have experience in government agencies.’ He recounted an interaction with communist dictator Xi Jinping while Li showed off the company’s electric bus technology, ‘When President Xi visited Hefei last time, I introduced to him about the battery we provided for JAC’s electric vehicle,’ and touted the growth in battery capacity.” (Kyle Olson, “MI-Funded Battery Maker Mandates Allegiance To ‘Constitution Of The Party Of China,’ Company Bylaws Say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)

### **Gotion Is An American “Subsidiary” Of The Chinese Corporation, And Therefore, The Mandates To Promote And Grow The Communist Party Could Be A Requirement At The Big Rapids Operation.**

**Gotion Is An American “Subsidiary” Of The Chinese Corporation, And Therefore The Mandates To Promote And Grow The Communist Party Could Be A Requirement At The Big Rapids Operation.** “Gotion, which is headquartered in Hefei City in the Anhui Province of China, has hired a Big Rapids-area man named Chuck Thelen to serve as its American representative for the foothold in the state. He performs media interviews and interacts with government officials. The company’s corporate filing with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs calls Gotion a “foreign profit corporation” with an American beachhead established in Fremont, California. The LARA filing undermines the notion that the company is an American ‘subsidiary’ of the Chinese corporation as some have claimed. In other words, the mandates to promote and grow the communist party ‘at the grass-roots level of the Company’ would likely be a requirement at the Big Rapids operation, which the company says could employ 2,350 people.” (Kyle Olson, “MI-Funded Battery Maker Mandates Allegiance To ‘Constitution Of The Party Of China,’ Company Bylaws Say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)