



MANTENO COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

May 27, 2026

Mr. Mohamad Ali Zeitoun
Gotion Illinois
333 S. Spruce St.
Manteno, IL 60950

Re: Emergency Response and Operational Impact Mitigation

Dear Mohamad,

During the early planning, development, and tax abatement discussions regarding the proposed Gotion facility, the Manteno Community Fire Protection District repeatedly expressed concern regarding the operational impact a large-scale lithium battery manufacturing facility could place upon the Fire District and surrounding mutual aid system.

Throughout those discussions, the Fire District consistently identified several critical operational and public safety expectations that were understood to be necessary to prevent unreasonable burdens being transferred onto our Fire District's emergency resources. Those discussions included, among other items:

- Compliance with the adopted 2024 ICC/IFC codes;
- Establishment of an on-site fire brigade or equivalent emergency response capability;
- No refurbishing or recycling operations from the primary facility.

The Fire District's position has remained consistent from the beginning of this process: the facility should not create an unreasonable operational impact (Fire & EMS) on the Fire District (or surrounding mutual aid agencies).

Over the course of negotiations, the Fire District has become increasingly concerned by the continued reduction, redaction, or removal of previously discussed operational safety provisions related to emergency response capability and facility mitigation responsibilities. The Fire District entered these discussions in good faith with the expectation that meaningful operational safeguards would be implemented consistent with the scale and hazard profile of the proposed operation.

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At this point, the repeated weakening or removal of key mitigation provisions has significantly undermined the Fire District's confidence that the proposed agreements adequately address the operational realities and long-term emergency response demands associated with the facility.

The Fire District cannot support an arrangement in which operational risk, emergency response burden, and associated liability are gradually shifted from the facility operator onto the Fire District and possibly the regional mutual aid system without clear, measurable, and enforceable mitigation measures.

The Fire District remains willing to participate in constructive discussions regarding reasonable and sustainable operational mitigation strategies. However, any future discussions must acknowledge the Fire District's longstanding and consistently stated position that the facility was expected to operate in a manner that would not create unreasonable operational impact upon the Fire District's emergency resources.

The Fire District's responsibility is to protect public safety, responder safety, and the long-term operational capability of the emergency response system serving the community. Those responsibilities require the Fire District to ensure that the hazards associated with large-scale industrial battery manufacturing operations are appropriately mitigated by the entity creating the risk.

Sincerely,

MANTENO COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Richard Petersen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Petersen", written over a horizontal line.

Fire Chief