

## Darlene Turner

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**From:** Austin Russell <austinjrussell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 6:00 PM  
**To:** Darlene Turner; phijomo@yahoo.com; bigbaypathway@gmail.com  
**Cc:** contactcscls@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Please do not allow spaceport construction

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Supervisor Turner, Commissioner Moran, and Chairman Gonstead,

My name is Austin Russell and I live at 1879 Kreft St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

I strenuously object to the proposed Granot Loma rocket launch plan.

According to Marquette County Board's employees and aerospace experts, this would require rezoning and amending the Powell Township Zoning Ordinance to create a new, intense, industrial use zone. Specific concerns include (but are not limited to)

- launch blast will be seen and heard for miles around
- launch will require evacuation of multiple family homes due to explosion risk
- falling rocket debris will endanger hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities
- lighting and water towers will pollute the day and nighttime sky views
- clear cutting will strip crucial habitat for many plant and animal species
- the launch site will be built on fragile wetlands atop a sandstone bluff
- a water deluge shockwave suppression system will draw large amounts of water from groundwater tables and/or the already eroding lakeshore

This industrialization of our Lake Superior coastline will degrade the quality of life now enjoyed by those who hike, fish, hunt, recreate and live in the beautiful natural landscape of Powell Township.

During my lifetime residency of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Marquette County has become my favorite place to experience the healing of nature. Our industrialized society is destroying our species' ability to survive. Meanwhile, Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Marquette County is known for world class natural area recreation experiences thanks to your long term excellent stewardship. When I visit, I meet local residents who tell me they enjoy most the quieter life in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and this is the same reason people visit. Launching rockets debases that core quality of the area. The owner of the proposed site is quoted in The New Yorker saying, "I was looking for a large piece of property that had wilderness for outdoor recreation, and for privacy, as a retreat," and is now allowing this quality to be ruined for himself and everyone else in the area. Please stop this!

Please publicly note my letter of opposition to the spaceport proposal and to any associated proposals for zoning changes. Please provide hard copies to fellow board/commission/committee members and post online with the board/commission/committee website minutes documents.

Sincerely,

Austin Russell

