

Summary Of Timeline:

Slotkin's staff admitted she signed NDA with Gotion on multiple occasions. Gotion and MEDC continued to engage in closed-door conversations under their joint NDA after Slotkin's NDA was updated to cover the Gotion project.

In December 2021, Gotion signed an NDA with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) regarding the development of their EV battery plant. Approximately one month later at the beginning of January 2022, [Slotkin signed an NDA](#) with MEDC. An unredacted version of Slotkin's NDA shows that her NDA initially covered Project Zaney Bread and Copper (this was [later updated](#) to [cover both Gotion and CATL](#)). In March 2022, Gotion's [NDA with MEDC](#) was updated to include several more items marked for confidentiality.

In [August 2022](#), Gotion requested the NDA with MEDC be updated to cover additional items. Less than one month later, Slotkin's staffer (Austin Girelli) [signed](#) an "[all-encompassing](#)" NDA that covered the Gotion project. The language in Girelli's NDA was nearly [identical to the language in Slotkin's later-updated, all-encompassing NDA](#) that covered the Gotion project. Less than a month after Slotkin's staffer signed the NDA, Governor [Whitmer officially announced](#) the Gotion plant project.

In December 2022, Slotkin's NDA was [updated to be all-encompassing](#) for any MEDC project, including Gotion (which [continued to engage in closed-door conversations with MEDC after this update to Slotkin's NDA](#)). Although the project was publicly announced at the time, specific details about the project were not finalized – and the [NDAs were still in place](#).

Slotkin's own spokesperson confirmed on the record to two separate outlets that she signed an NDA covering Gotion. In February 2023, Slotkin's spokesperson Austin Cook confirmed to [The Detroit News](#) that she and a staffer signed the hush agreement: "*To be part of those conversations MEDC required Congresswoman Slotkin and members of our staff to sign an NDA.*" Slotkin even specified to [The Detroit News](#) that the NDA was related to Gotion, claiming "*she had reservations about giving incentives to the company in part because it is a subsidiary of a Chinese company.*" In April 2023, Slotkin's spokesperson Austin Cook again confirmed (this time to [Fox News](#)) that she signed the hush agreement: "*Following the publication of this report, Cook confirmed Slotkin signed the NDA, but declined to comment further.*"

Cook also [claimed](#) that Austin Girelli's NDA covering Gotion was signed "*only after the Gotion project had already been announced publicly.*" [Girelli signed the NDA](#) on September 29th, 2022. However, Governor Whitmer only [officially announced](#) the Gotion Plant project on October 5th, 2022 – therefore the NDA was signed before the project had been announced publicly.

In March 2023, CFIUS staff found Gotion's submission "[materially incomplete](#)" and required further information. However, Big Rapids Charter Township [did not have access](#) to the requested information and Gotion refused to turn it over. Gotion stated they were "[not of the view that this is a covered real estate transaction](#)" and they "[intended to file a voluntary Declaration, rather than](#)

[a voluntary Notice](#).” Gotion [opted for a quicker review](#) through a voluntary declaration, even as Big Rapids Township sought the more in-depth review. Gotion refused to turn over the additional information, which led to CFIUS declaring they would not review the project for national security concerns. As reported by [Center Square in April 2023](#), the NDAs were still in effect and stymied the federal CFIUS review of Gotion: “*The U.S. Committee on foreign Investment cannot move forward with its investigation of Gotion due to five-year nondisclosure agreements between company principals and other officials.*” Big Rapids reportedly [not able to provide to CFIUS the necessary personal identifying information on all of Gotion and its parent company](#), including passport numbers, dates of birth, address, and visa numbers” required to conduct a thorough review: “*The township could not secure the information due to the nondisclosure agreements.*” Later in [April 2023](#), the Michigan Legislature approved Gotion’s funding.

On [April 21st, 2023](#), lawyers filed under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) to represent Gotion and their “*proposed battery component manufacturing facility in Big Rapids, Michigan.*” Gotion’s lawyers [disclosed engaging in registrable activities](#) on behalf of the foreign principal (Gotion) – which [included](#) closed-door meetings with MEDC and publicly elected officials about their plant project between January 1, 2023 and April 13, 2023 (this was not a comprehensive list – just activities conducted by the firm prior to registration). These closed-door meetings occurred [after](#) Slotkin’s NDA was updated in December 2022.

On April 27th, 2023, the NRSC [released a digital ad](#) targeting Slotkin for signing the NDA covering the Gotion project. The [next day](#), April 28th, was one of the first times Slotkin began putting distance between herself and the hush agreement: “Source close to Slotkin” said she never discussed Gotion, despite her own spokesperson confirming on multiple occasions – and to different outlets – that she did so.

Michigan lawmakers in May 2023 [called](#) for MEDC and the state’s environmental impact reports on Gotion, and less than one month later, CFIUS [announced](#) it lacked jurisdiction to review the Gotion project.

On June 19th 2023, the NRSC [launched a microsite](#) targeting Slotkin for signing an NDA covering the Gotion project. [Slotkin’s campaign](#) went on the record for one of the first times denying that she signed the NDA covering the Gotion project – contradicting the previous statements made by her own spokesperson.

On the same day, it was [reported](#) that Gotion refused to disclose the materials they submitted to CFIUS and did not release the NDAs.

On August 1st, 2023, Gotion [announced](#) it would be purchasing 270 acres of farmland for their EV battery plant. On the [same day](#), Slotkin ‘coincidentally’ introduced legislation to stop foreign adversaries from buying farmland without review. [Slotkin’s campaign has been funded by a lawyer for Gotion who registered as a foreign agent](#) – [part of the lawyer’s tasks](#) were to help them complete land acquisitions and rezoning.

On August 9th, 2023, Slotkin [discussed](#) the Gotion project since her NDA was discovered.

On August 15th, 2023, Big Rapids Township Clerk Hannah Saez [stated](#) “Gotion refused to provide the necessary requested information to complete a full CFIUS review initiated by Big Rapids Township to secure all necessary information involving the proposed transaction.”

On August 23rd, 2023, Fox News [reported](#) to have obtained a copy of Slotkin’s signed NDA which contradicted her past denials.

In March 2024, The Midwesterner [obtained a signed copy](#) of Slotkin’s and her staffer’s NDA: “*The Midwesterner has obtained copies of the five-year NDAs Slotkin and a staffer signed with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in 2022 related to Gotion and CATL, referred to as ‘Development Projects’ in the NDAs.*”