

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. R. No. 147

Representative Robb Blasdel

A RESOLUTION

To urge Congress to establish a special committee to
investigate the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment
and the federal Environmental Protection Agency's
response to it.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, On February 3, 2023, a freight train derailed in
East Palestine, Ohio, while carrying hazardous materials,
including vinyl chloride, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether,
ethyl-hexyl acrylate, butyl acrylates, benzene residue, and
isobutylene. In response, officials evacuated a one-mile radius
around the derailment location and then extended it to two miles
a few days later; and

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WHEREAS, The force of the crash caused several rail cars to
catch fire and others to spill their toxic loads onto the soil,
causing hazardous substances to travel into local waterways; and

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WHEREAS, Emergency crews were forced to conduct controlled
burns of five vinyl chloride tank rail cars to limit potential
explosions. But as a result of the controlled burning, plumes of
black smoke containing hazardous chemicals were released into
the air; and

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WHEREAS, In September 2023, President Biden issued

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Executive Order 14108, "ensuring the people of East Palestine
are protected now and in the future." This Executive Order also
states, in pertinent part, that "available data show that no
contaminants of concern have been detected at levels of concern
in the air in the affected communities at sustained levels since
the evacuation order was lifted"; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Order also directed the Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to "oversee long-term
recovery efforts in the affected communities and conduct a
comprehensive assessment of unmet needs of the affected
communities in recovering from the derailment beyond the cleanup
work directed by EPA"; and

WHEREAS, Newly-obtained documents acquired through a
Freedom of Information Act request show that officials from FEMA
voiced concerns that the chemical spill and the plume of smoke
set off by the controlled burn could cause "cancer clusters";
now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of
Representatives of the 136th General Assembly of the State of
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge Congress to establish a
special committee to investigate the East Palestine train
derailment and the United States Environmental Protection
Agency's response to it; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of
Representatives of the 136th General Assembly of the State of
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge Congress to appoint
members of the Ohio Congressional delegation to the special
committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the
President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the
United States House of Representatives, the President Pro

Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, each member	53
of Congress, and the news media of Ohio.	54