

**As Reported by the House Natural Resources Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. R. No. 147**

**Representative Robb Blasdel**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, Hiner, Holmes, Johnson, Mathews, T.,  
Salvo, Workman**

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**A R E S O L U T I O N**

To urge Congress to establish a special committee to 1  
investigate the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment 2  
and the federal Environmental Protection Agency's 3  
response to it. 4

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

WHEREAS, On February 3, 2023, a freight train derailed in 5  
East Palestine, Ohio, while carrying hazardous materials, 6  
including vinyl chloride, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, 7  
ethyl-hexyl acrylate, butyl acrylates, benzene residue, and 8  
isobutylene. In response, officials evacuated a one-mile radius 9  
around the derailment location and then extended it to two miles 10  
a few days later; and 11

WHEREAS, The force of the crash caused several rail cars to 12  
catch fire and others to spill their toxic loads onto the soil, 13  
causing hazardous substances to travel into local waterways; and 14

WHEREAS, Emergency crews were forced to conduct controlled 15  
burns of five vinyl chloride tank rail cars to limit potential 16  
explosions. But as a result of the controlled burning, plumes of 17  
black smoke containing hazardous chemicals were released into 18

the air; and 19

WHEREAS, In September 2023, President Biden issued 20  
Executive Order 14108, "ensuring the people of East Palestine 21  
are protected now and in the future." This Executive Order also 22  
states, in pertinent part, that "available data show that no 23  
contaminants of concern have been detected at levels of concern 24  
in the air in the affected communities at sustained levels since 25  
the evacuation order was lifted"; and 26

WHEREAS, The Executive Order also directed the Federal 27  
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to "oversee long-term 28  
recovery efforts in the affected communities and conduct a 29  
comprehensive assessment of unmet needs of the affected 30  
communities in recovering from the derailment beyond the cleanup 31  
work directed by EPA"; and 32

WHEREAS, Newly-obtained documents acquired through a 33  
Freedom of Information Act request show that officials from FEMA 34  
voiced concerns that the chemical spill and the plume of smoke 35  
set off by the controlled burn could cause "cancer clusters"; 36  
now therefore be it 37

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 38  
Representatives of the 136th General Assembly of the State of 39  
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge Congress to establish a 40  
special committee to investigate the East Palestine train 41  
derailment and the United States Environmental Protection 42  
Agency's response to it; and be it further 43

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 44  
Representatives of the 136th General Assembly of the State of 45  
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge Congress to appoint 46  
members of the Ohio Congressional delegation to the special 47  
committee; and be it further 48

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 49

transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the	50
President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the	51
United States House of Representatives, the President Pro	52
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, each member	53
of Congress, and the news media of Ohio.	54