

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**

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