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**Representative Adam C. Bird
Ohio House District 63**

**Sponsor Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 4
Before the House Committee on Government Oversight
March 7, 2023**

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 4, urging Congress to enact a law regarding trains carrying hazardous materials.

As you all know, on February 3rd, 2023 a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous materials derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. At the time of the train's derailment, it was not considered a high-hazard flammable train by the U.S. Department of Transportation, The State of Ohio was not aware that a train carrying such hazardous materials was traversing throughout the state. Ten of the fifty railroad cars that derailed contained not only vinyl chloride, but other chemicals such as butyl acrylate, ethylhexyl acrylate, and ethylene glycol monobutyl, all of which are not only dangerous to the environment, but to life.

Since the derailment, we have heard an outpouring of fear and concern from Ohioans. Not only from our colleague Representative Robb-Blasel's constituents, who are fearful and experiencing the side effects of this derailment, but also from individuals down the river, residents in our state, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois who all draw drinking water from the Ohio River.

When a railroad car is carrying hazardous chemicals, a train derailment not only affects the location of the accident, but our state in its entirety. With hazardous chemicals traveling throughout our state every day, the potential for an accident as devastating as this, or even worse, is high. House Concurrent Resolution 4 urges Congress to pass legislation that requires the railroad companies and the United States Department of Transportation to inform local and state officials when trains carrying potentially hazardous materials travel through their respective jurisdictions. While we are thankful for the response of both our state and our country to this incident, it is our responsibility as legislatures to seek answers

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and to ensure when hazardous materials are traveling through our state, the proper authorities are aware.

Chairman Peterson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution. My joint sponsor, Representative Plummer, and I are happy to answer your questions.