
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 59 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO AND HUTCHINSON, MARCH 6, 2023

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
MARCH 6, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the impact of the East Palestine, Ohio, train
2 derailment on residents of this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, On February 3, 2023, at approximately 9:30 p.m., a
4 53-car train derailment occurred near the border of Pennsylvania
5 in East Palestine, Ohio, and Beaver County, Pennsylvania; and

6 WHEREAS, Several of the cars carried at least five hazardous
7 chemicals, including the cancer-causing vinyl chloride; and

8 WHEREAS, On February 6, 2023, three days after the derailment
9 and burning wreckage, authorities decided to fully release and
10 burn the vinyl chloride, sending a massive plume of hydrogen
11 chloride and the toxic gas phosgene into the air; and

12 WHEREAS, It has been reported that hundreds of thousands of
13 pounds of toxic chemicals spilled into the air, soil and water
14 around East Palestine, Ohio; and

15 WHEREAS, International, national, Statewide and local news
16 reports brought attention to Pennsylvania residents experiencing
17 burning lips, itchy eyes, rashes, headaches, diarrhea and other
18 symptoms in the aftermath of the crash; and

1 WHEREAS, On February 23, 2023, the Veterans Affairs and
2 Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate of the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hosted a hearing at Beaver County
4 Community College where local residents shared their stories of
5 distressed evacuations, fears related to the chemical spill and
6 fire, symptoms of health ailments, environmental impacts, fish,
7 animals and birds affected and questions of Norfolk Southern;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, On February 28, 2023, subsequent to the
10 establishment of a health clinic in East Palestine, Ohio, the
11 Department of Health established a Health Resource Center in
12 Beaver County with more than 200 residents visiting within the
13 first two days; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 recognize the environmental impact that the train derailment and
16 subsequent chemical burn has had on the residents of Beaver
17 County and call on Congress and the United States Department of
18 Transportation to hold Norfolk Southern accountable; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
21 all of the following:

- 22 (1) The United States Secretary of Transportation.
23 (2) Each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.