

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2023

Mr. Alan H. Shaw
Chief Executive Officer
Norfolk Southern Corporation
650 W. Peachtree St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Mr. Shaw,

The train derailment, venting, and chemical fire that began 10 days ago in East Palestine has generated national scrutiny, debate and concern. More importantly, it has created dislocation, anxiety, displacement and uncertainty in East Palestine, a rural farming community which nearly 5,000 Ohioans call home. Ohioans across the state are watching these events with concern. My team and I have been in touch with local, federal, and state officials, national experts on epidemiology, and Norfolk Southern itself.

There is no guarantee that the health and safety of the town and its environs, as well as the larger region and watershed, will ever be the same. Many of my constituents have been displaced, including those within the one-mile evacuation and reimbursement zone, as well as those near the border of the zone. These include families with young children who may be especially vulnerable to the carcinogenic and toxic gases released as a result of the derailment. It will take major cleanup and the appropriate testing for baseline population-level biomarkers to fully ensure the area is safe, residents are unharmed, and that the release of vinyl chloride and other chemicals does not have a permanent impact.

Given these circumstances, I ask that you expand the criteria for the reimbursement area to include all residents of East Palestine, not merely those within the one-mile area of the evacuation perimeter. They are all affected. They should be reimbursed. I would strongly assert, however, that these checks should not and do not release the railroad from any liability it has incurred as a result of this disaster. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JD Vance
United States Senator