

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) dedicated cleanup efforts following the Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. While we appreciate these endeavors, we believe there's an opportunity to provide further reassurance to our constituents regarding the safety of their indoor spaces.

Numerous residents and certain experts have raised concerns about potential indoor contaminants. To prioritize the health and well-being of the East Palestine community, we suggest that the EPA ensure the availability of limited testing for compounds, including acrylate compounds and vinyl-chloride, in residences upon request, post-cleanup.

We cannot overstate the importance of transparent and proactive communication. While we recognize the EPA's perspective that vinyl-chloride and acrylate compounds may arise from ordinary household activities, it is undeniable that residents' worry about these compounds stems from the derailment. By allowing Norfolk Southern to skirt its responsibility to the community and refuse to offer this sort of testing following cleanup, the EPA risks eroding the trust of many in our community.

Should testing identify elevated levels of these compounds, we urge you to require Norfolk Southern to ensure another round of cleaning as follow-up. This seems a small price to pay for the peace of mind it would bring to our constituents. By requiring Norfolk Southern to provide this clarity and swiftly address any lingering concerns, the EPA can bolster confidence and provide much-needed reassurance to East Palestine residents.

We deeply value the EPA's unwavering commitment to environmental safety, and its support of the Ohio EPA throughout the joint response to this man-made crisis. As representatives of Ohio, we remain optimistic about a resolution that truly centers the safety and well-being of the East Palestine community.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Warm regards,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



JD Vance
United States Senator



Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative



Shontel Brown
United States Representative



Warren Davidson
United States Representative



Emelia Sykes
United States Representative



Max Miller
United States Representative