



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 14, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Shaw:

I write today regarding the train derailment and chemical fire that occurred on February 3, 2023 in East Palestine, Ohio. East Palestine is a small, rural, farming community in the heart of my congressional district. As you know, I have been engaged with local, state, and federal officials, and with you, since the incident occurred. Yesterday, I personally toured the site and viewed the wreckage and cleanup efforts. I met with Mayor Conaway, the Fire Chief, other local officials, local civic leaders, and representatives of your company.

People I spoke with, including residents, are fearful. They are wondering about the future and looking for assurances that they aren't going to be forgotten. I am also hearing from those who live just outside the one-mile evacuation perimeter, who also evacuated out of an abundance of caution. These concerned citizens are upset that they are not able to be reimbursed because they live just outside of the evacuation zone. Mr. Shaw, can you please provide an explanation of the metrics used to determine the boundaries of the evacuation perimeter? The men and women I represent are rightfully concerned about their air, soil and water being contaminated by harmful toxins. We don't know what we don't know at this point, and until the investigations are complete and the ongoing test results are in and evaluated, we truly won't know the impact of the disaster. This will likely take several years.

Further, I respectfully request that you re-examine your criteria for reimbursement for disaster-related expenses. The entire village was impacted, and I encourage you to consider reimbursement for all East Palestine residents. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Johnson".

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress