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March 2023

Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives:

Railroads are part of America's communities, and that is why my city and the National League of Cities (NLC) supports action by Congress to improve rail safety in the U.S.

The unfortunate derailment and environmental contamination in East Palestine, Ohio is not unprecedented. There are more than 1,000 trains derailing each year in multiple states. With 140,000 miles of track in the U.S. crossing directly through thousands of cities, towns and villages, the severity of this derailment requires proactive reflection on rail safety actions that Congress can take now. [Here are NLC's detailed rail safety recommendations to Congress.](#)

We are encouraged by the introduction of the bipartisan [Railway Safety Act of 2023](#) in the Senate which would improve rail safety, and House members have provided additional proposals to expand the list of chemicals reported so that when – not if - a derailment happens first responders know what they are dealing with.

We ask for Congress to act now on rail safety on behalf of thousands of cities, towns and villages who want to see rail safely moving through their communities.

Thank you,

[CITY LEADER SIGNATURES]

[City Leaders Can Sign the Letter Here: https://forms.office.com/r/qQ3bkNBBVd](https://forms.office.com/r/qQ3bkNBBVd)

