



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Brian Rockensuess  
Commissioner  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

Commissioner Rockensuess:

I am writing to you concerning the decision announced on February 27, 2023, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that Heritage Environmental Services' Roachdale, Indiana, facility would receive contaminated material from the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

Despite to the EPA's promise to "notify elected officials and our state agency partners before approving the shipment of any waste from the derailment to their state or district"<sup>i</sup> in their announcement, the agency failed to inform Hoosier local, state, and federal elected officials about the transportation and disposal of this hazardous material in our state. On the day of the surprise announcement, I made clear that blindsiding Hoosiers by rushing contaminated material across state lines is risky and irresponsible.<sup>ii</sup>

Following this announcement, a town hall meeting was held in Putnam County that highlighted the heightened concerns of the surrounding public and myself. At this meeting, it was made public that three truckloads had already arrived in Roachdale and that four more truckloads were expected to arrive on Thursday, March 2, 2023.<sup>iii</sup>

As the U.S. Representative of Indiana's 4th Congressional District, I respectfully request that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) act to immediately effect the pause of all transportation and storage of contaminated material from East Palestine, Ohio, to and at the Roachdale facility until:

1. All testing conducted by Norfolk Southern, the EPA, and IDEM of the chemicals in the material being transported to the Roachdale facility has been transparently disclosed; and
2. Sufficient oversight of the company contracted to transport material through the state and the disposal and storage of the contaminated material at the Roachdale facility has been established.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James R. Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Jim Baird, PhD  
Member of Congress

Cc: Governor of Indiana Eric Holcomb

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<sup>i</sup> FEMA: Joint Media Briefing on East Palestine Train Derailment Recovery Efforts (27 Feb. 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4ebirh-ItY>.

<sup>ii</sup> Rep. Jim Baird: Congressman Baird Slams Dangerous EPA Decision (27 Feb. 2023) <https://baird.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=301>.

<sup>iii</sup> WRTV: Heritage Environmental Services host town hall after toxic waste arrives in Putnam County (1 Mar. 2023) <https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/putnam-county/heritage-environmental-services-hosting-town-hall-ahead-of-toxic-waste-coming-to-landfill>.