



## **There is an imminent threat to the life and safety of the East Palestine residents**

We are writing this letter to let the world know that East Palestine, OH and neighboring impacted communities including Pennsylvania! There is an imminent threat to the life and safety of our children, our families, our communities and we demand immediate relief and we demand it now!

Lifelong East Palestine, OH resident and mother of five boys, Candice DeSanzo, is a member of Unity Council that has been screaming for over a year that her children are sick. She was forced back into her home after relocation was cut off and fought Norfolk Southern to provide her an extensive house cleaning before she went home, not being offered by the EPA. After Senator Vance's office stepped in, Norfolk Southern agreed to have Mrs. DeSanzo's house cleaned extensively.

Even after the house cleaning, the family continued to suffer from symptoms of chemical exposure. Mrs. DeSanzo smelled a strong chemical smell in a bag of shoes that had been stored in her basement. She invited Mark Durno from the US EPA to her house to smell for himself. Mr. Durno admitted to smelling the chemicals in the bag and asked to take the bag with him. Mrs. DeSanzo declined.

The following day, Mr. Durno contacted Mrs. DeSanzo to see if he could stop by with his colleagues. He showed up to the DeSanzo home with a colleague from CTEH, Norfolk Southern's contractor. The Norfolk Southern Employee attributed the smell to an unopened box of cleaning supplies stored in the basement. She informed Mrs. DeSanzo that she could call if she smelled the odor again and they would place an air monitor outside of the house. The US EPA and CTEH both refused to test the indoor air and the DeSanzo family was left to suffer from their illnesses.



During the time period of September 19-26, 2023, Dr. Erin Haynes from the University of KY placed an air badge in the DeSanzo home for a week. Recently released results revealed that “The [level of BTEX \(Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene\)](#) measured at your location was higher than expected. In particular, xylene was measured above the US EPA's Reference Concentration (RfC), the level at which long term exposure to the chemical could result in health concerns.” On September 27, 2023 candace [took photos of her children covered in rashes.](#)

We need to err on the side of human health and get residents out until ALL HOMES HAVE BEEN TESTED!

When does the government start protecting human health? In the words of the [Environment & Human Health \(EHHI\)](#):

“In situations such as this the advice to stay put and wait for the science makes little sense. The presumption of hazard is the only ethical conclusion to reach. With most hazardous sites and spills, the evidence is rarely available to conclude danger or safety. EPA's expression of safety seems unfounded to me. With most other sites (Superfund, RCRA, and spill areas) the only reassurance comes from long term testing of air (indoors and outside) soils, ground and drinking water, and foods. Human tissue testing is also essential to test for the suite of chemicals released.

Long term medical surveillance of humans, pets, livestock is essential to reach a responsible determination of safety, and to understand the probabilities of illness causation. This situation reminds me of the political fight over the evacuation boundary surrounding the Chernobyl and Fukushima accident sites being so conflicted due to the extraordinary costs of pursuing the precautionary actions suggested above under such conditions of uncertainty.”



Unity Council  
for the EP Train Derailment

[.Senator JD Vance and Sherrod Brown wrote a bipartisan letter](#) asking the EPA to test our indoor air and residential soil in East Palestine, OH and surrounding impacted areas including Pennsylvania . The EPA flat out refused. [Debra Shore](#) said she was aware of [the] letter from Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and J.D. Vance (R-OH) to Michael Regan, head of the federal EPA, but reiterated the agency will continue to follow the science and rely on data that indicates the Feb. 3 rail disaster has had no negative impact on air quality “The EPA is an agency that has a foundational commitment to base ourselves on science and the law. And the science in this case doesn’t suggest that it is wise or potent to do that,” Shore said of indoor air testing.” Senators Vance and Brown have also written letters [asking for Dioxin Testing](#) and [for a public health emergency](#) among other letters of support for impacted residents..

We needed help then, we need help now. The science is not there so we need to start listening to the people who are relying on what their bodies are telling them. We are desperate to get our families out of unsafe homes and chemical contamination. ***There is an imminent threat to the life and safety of the East Palestine residents.***

Thank you,

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