

A RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Congress to amend the Railway Safety Act of 2023 to require rail shippers to secure all rail cars carrying solid waste to prevent littering and to create a study committee to analyze the benefits of securing rail cars carrying solid waste.

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Ohio:

WHEREAS, On March 1, 2023, U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown and J.D. Vance from Ohio introduced the Railway Safety Act of 2023, which creates new safety requirements and procedures for trains carrying hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, The Railway Safety Act does not specifically require rail shippers to secure loads consisting of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, Unsecured solid waste emitted from trains causes pollution and other threats to public health and safety in communities throughout Ohio, which is of considerable concern in light of the events that unfolded on February 3, 2023, in East Palestine, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Costs to cleanup solid waste along and in the vicinity of rail lines are borne by local governments and individual property owners in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Solid waste materials that are emitted from trains create great uncertainty among Ohio residents living in the vicinity of rail lines and affects their health, safety, and overall quality of life; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the United States Congress to amend the Railway Safety Act of 2023 to require rail shippers to secure all rail cars carrying solid waste to ensure that such waste is not deposited on the lands over which trains travel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the United States Congress to create a study committee to analyze the benefits of securing rail cars carrying solid waste; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

President _____ of the Senate.

Adopted _____, 20____