

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 52

Reps. Miller and Wegela offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to encourage the United States Federal Government  
2 to increase transparency and notification standards around the  
3 transportation of toxic waste materials across state and community  
4 lines.

5 Whereas, On February 3, 2023, a Norfolk Southern train  
6 derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, spilling hazardous chemicals. The  
7 spill killed numerous wildlife, prompted hundreds of people to  
8 evacuate their homes, and caused many residents to complain about  
9 rashes, sore throats, and headaches; and

10 Whereas, Solid toxic waste from the crash was sent to the U.S.  
11 Ecology's Wayne Disposal Inc. Hazardous Waste Landfill in  
12 Belleville, and liquid toxic waste was sent to the Republic  
13 Industrial and Energy Solutions LLC facility in Romulus. However,

1 Michigan's state officials and congressional representatives were  
2 not notified or consulted in the decision to send toxic waste to  
3 Belleville and Romulus until February 24, 2023; and

4       Whereas, Federal law requires generators of hazardous waste to  
5 prepare a manifest when the waste is shipped off-site to track it  
6 from the point of generation to a waste management facility that  
7 will store, treat, or dispose of the waste. The manifest form  
8 contains information on the type and quantity of the waste being  
9 transported, instructions for handling the waste, and signature  
10 lines for all parties that handle the waste. Each party that  
11 handles the waste keeps a copy of the manifest for their own  
12 records; and

13       Whereas, Federal law lacks uniform reporting and notification  
14 requirements, instead deferring to state laws to regulate the  
15 details of waste being transported through their jurisdictions.  
16 This jeopardizes the health and safety of citizens across America,  
17 because first responders are at elevated risk of being unprepared  
18 for accidents involving transportation of hazardous waste passing  
19 through their communities. Further, waste generators must comply  
20 with a patchwork of varying regulations, increasing the likelihood  
21 of non-compliance and inadequate information sharing; now,  
22 therefore, be it

23       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we encourage  
24 the United States Federal Government to increase national  
25 transparency and notification standards around the transportation  
26 of hazardous waste materials across state and community lines to  
27 include advance notice to governors' offices and state and local  
28 officials for impacted areas, including the communities that the  
29 waste will be traveling through; and be it further

1           Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
2 administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan's  
3 senatorial and congressional delegation.