



The Governing Voice for  
700,000 Wayne County Residents

CWW Represents:

Cities: Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City,  
Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland

Townships: Canton Charter Township, Huron Charter Township, Northville Charter Township,  
Plymouth Charter Township, Redford Charter Township, Sumpter Township and Van Buren  
Charter Township

### **Resolution 2023-001**

#### **CALL FOR THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE NOTIFICATION STANDARDS AROUND THE TRANSPORTATION OF TOXIC CHEMICALS AND TO ENACT POLICIES TO PREVENT THESE AVOIDABLE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) is comprised of 18 member communities and over 730,000 residents; and

**WHEREAS**, CWW is home to the communities of Romulus, Van Buren Township and Belleville; and

**WHEREAS**, In East Palestine, OH on February 3, 2023 a Norfolk Southern Train transporting 5 different toxic chemicals, including vinyl chloride, derailed resulting in the death of surrounding wildlife, contamination of the Ohio River and the evacuation of hundreds of residents from their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, 38 train cars derailed on February 3, 2023, including 11 tank cars carrying hazardous material that subsequently ignited fueling fires that damaged another dozen cars that did not derail; and

**WHEREAS**, 5 of the 11 tank cars were carrying 115,580 gallons of vinyl chloride; and

**WHEREAS**, This resulted in the releasing of the toxic chemical into a trench and later burned; and

**WHEREAS**, The residents of East Palestine have since reported health problems including headaches, fatigue and respiratory issues; and

**WHEREAS**, Following the clean-up of the toxic spill in East Palestine, solid toxic waste from the crash was sent to the U.S. Ecology's Wayne Disposal Inc. Hazardous Waste Landfill in Belleville/Van Buren Township; and

**WHEREAS**, The liquid toxic waste was sent to the Republic Industrial and Energy Solutions LLC facility in Romulus; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's federal, state, county and local officials were not made aware of the decision to send the toxic waste to Belleville, Van Buren and Romulus until February 24, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal law requires hazardous waste to be tracked when it is shipped off-site from the point of generation to a waste management facility that will treat, store or dispose of the waste; and

**WHEREAS**, However, federal law lacks uniform reporting and notification requirements, and instead defers to state laws to regulate how hazardous waste is transported through their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, This puts the health and safety of all residents throughout the country, in jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS**, First responders are at an increased risk of being unprepared for accidents involving hazardous waste materials passing through their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Waste generators must comply with various regulations, further increasing the probability for non-compliance and insufficient information sharing; and

**WHEREAS**, Multiple train derailments have occurred since the beginning of 2023, including another Norfolk Southern derailment in Van Buren Township on February 16, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Railroad Administration and the United State Congress need to enact policies to improve railroad safety and prevent these avoidable disasters in the future; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

The Conference of Western Wayne hereby requests that the United States Federal Government, the United States Congress and the Federal Railroad Administration enact laws, standards and policies that uniformly notify communities and states of hazardous waste transportation and that increase the safety of United States citizens by preventing these avoidable disasters in the future.

I attest that this is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at the direction of the CWW Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on March 10, 2023 in the City of Inkster.

Supervisor David Glaab  
CWW Chairman of the Board