

Governor Josh Shapiro
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

March 20, 2023

Dear Governor Shapiro and Secretary Negrin:

I have not reached out to Pennsylvania since the February 3, 2023 chemical spill and chemical fires in East Palestine, Ohio due to lack of time, but was encouraged to do so today. My Purdue University research team responded to the disaster at the request of Ohio and Pennsylvania citizens in late February. We have been sampling soils, waterways, air, and private well water.

During the Pennsylvania Senate hearing by the Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee today, I was encouraged to provide you information provided to USEPA and the State of Ohio. The following items are posted on our website here: <https://engineering.purdue.edu/PlumbingSafety/project/OH-chemical-spill>. I had hoped USEPA would be talking with you and sharing feedback with you. If they have not been, I am providing you the information below.

1. Testimony to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee hearing March 20, 2023
2. Purdue University Community Update on Scientific Investigation in East Palestine, OH, March 12, 2023
3. Public comment submitted to the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for the March 8, 2023 hearing
4. Letter to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) asking for a worker safety investigation March 2, 2023

I have repeatedly encouraged the state of Ohio, Ohio County Health Departments, and USEPA to test for the chemicals released and created from the chemical spill and chemical fires, which are not being tested for - which we found while onsite.

I encourage you and your colleagues to do a course correct before the contamination is gone, so that you can understand potential health risks and best protect your citizens and businesses.

I am happy to answer any questions that you have.

Sincerely,
Andrew Whelton