



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 26, 2026

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES

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HEALTH

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& CRITICAL MINERALS

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David Armstrong Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink:

I write regarding the safety of my constituents who live, work, and travel along rail lines in and through Blair County, Pennsylvania, located in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. In particular, I write to bring to your attention the unprecedented and concerning trend of Norfolk Southern railcar derailments along these rail lines.

In the 2026 calendar year alone, there have been public reports of four unique incidents of railcar derailments in and around the City of Altoona in Blair County:

- On February 6, 2026, more than 65 railcars derailed in Logan Township;
- On March 7, 2026, two locomotives and over a dozen railcars derailed near the historic Horseshoe Curve;
- On August 11, 2026, at least a dozen railcars derailed near the Horseshoe Curve; and
- On October 23, 2026, eleven railcars derailed, including three carrying hazardous materials.

The frequency of railcar derailments in and around this specific portion of Norfolk Southern rail lines is troubling and raises valid concerns as to whether there are underlying issues along this stretch of rail.

To better understand the federal response to these incidents, I respectfully request your assistance and attention to the following questions:

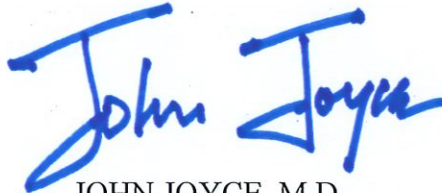
1. Was the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) notified in a timely manner of each of these four derailments?
2. What is the FRA's response protocol when an incident like this occurs? To date, has the FRA deployed investigators to Blair County to investigate and address these derailments?

3. Because of the proximity in time of these four derailments, has the FRA investigated the possibility of a common link? If so, what has been determined?
4. Has the FRA coordinated with Norfolk Southern and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to better understand these derailments?
5. To date, has the FRA determined what steps need to be taken to prevent future derailments?
6. Has the FRA identified this rail corridor as at risk for derailment in the past?

The safety of my constituents and all who ride and work along Blair County's rail lines is non-negotiable. I am fully prepared to partner with you and the FRA to ensure it remains the highest priority.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress

JJ/tm

cc: Hon. Sean Patrick Duffy, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
Mark R. George, President & CEO, Norfolk Southern Corporation