

Since the Norfolk Southern train derailment in February 2023, Senator Casey has been fighting relentlessly to ensure victims of the disaster receive the resources, reimbursement, and support they need to recover. In that time, he has taken the following actions:

February 15, 2023: Senator Casey, along with U.S. Senator John Fetterman (D-PA) and Ohio's U.S. Senators, [sent](#) letters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Transportation Safety Board urging them to hold Norfolk Southern accountable for releasing hazardous materials into the air and water, relaying rail safety concerns from constituents and experts, and asking them to ensure proper resources and assistance were reaching affected residents in Darlington Township.

February 16, 2023: Senator Casey [demanded](#) to know how Norfolk Southern planned to be an active member of response and clean-up operations as well as provide full, adequate, and equitable remuneration for the damages caused to the surrounding communities and environment by the derailment of their train.

March 1, 2023: Senator Casey, along with Senator Fetterman and Congressman Chris Deluzio (D-PA-17) [sent](#) a letter to Norfolk Southern Corporation President and CEO Alan Shaw asking that Norfolk Southern give all residents of three zip codes in Pennsylvania—16115, 16120, and 16141—full access to financial and other resources, rather than provide assistance only on a case-by-case basis.

Also on March 1, Senator Casey introduced bipartisan legislation, the [Railway Safety Act](#), to prevent future train disasters by taking key steps to improve rail safety protocols, such as enhancing safety procedures for trains carrying hazardous materials, establishing requirements for wayside defect detectors, creating a permanent requirement for most major railroads to operate with at least two-person crews, increasing fines for wrongdoing committed by rail carriers, and more.

March 6, 2023: Senator Casey [visited](#) Darlington Township to hear the concerns from township leaders and residents. Casey also heard from first responders, specifically how they and their families have been affected by the derailment. During the visit, Casey said, “We have to continue to push every level of government to do their part and make sure Norfolk Southern is held accountable for what took place.”

March 8, 2023: In response to the concerns of farmers and agricultural producers in and around the Norfolk Southern derailment site in East Palestine and Darlington Township, Senator Casey [sent a letter](#) to Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Michael Regan, Administrator of the EPA urging the Biden Administration to deploy resources to the region to help farmers conduct any necessary testing of their soils, plant tissue, and livestock, and to interpret the results of those tests as they pertain to the safety and marketability of their crops and products.

March 16, 2023: Based on his conversations with first responders in Beaver County, Senator Casey introduces the [Assistance for Local Heroes During Train Crises Act](#) to set aside funds—paid for by companies that ship and carry hazardous materials—to provide emergency

responders, firefighters, and law enforcement with the financial resources needed to replace equipment, pay workers overtime, and address other urgent costs in the event of a serious derailment.

April 3, 2023: Senator Casey [wrote](#) to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the National Institutes of Health to request assistance for the impacted communities in Pennsylvania and Ohio by facilitating necessary health monitoring. After receiving the letter, the agency [worked with](#) the National Academies on a public health workshop on the derailment and [awarded](#) six grants to research institutions to study the short and long-term health impacts of the derailment.

July 6, 2023: Senator Casey [sent a letter](#) to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Deputy Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Tristan Brown in support of a proposed rule requiring railroads to share real-time train information with emergency responders.

August 3, 2023: Senator Casey [announced](#) that Norfolk Southern had reimbursed Darlington Township for \$544,700, the estimated cost to repair East Palestine Road, which was damaged as a result of the Norfolk Southern train derailment.

January 30, 2024: Following [pressure](#) from Senator Casey, Norfolk Southern announced it would take steps towards joining the Federal Railroad Administration's Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS), a program that allows employees to anonymously report near-misses or close calls on railroads when they see them and protects employees from retribution.

March 8, 2024: Senator Casey, along with Senator Fetterman and Representative Deluzio, [delivered](#) \$3,661,000 to expand access to clean public drinking water for Darlington just over one year after Norfolk Southern's train derailment and chemical explosion.

April 22, 2024: Senator Casey sent a [letter](#) to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner Danny Werfel and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urging them to recognize the Norfolk Southern derailment as "of a catastrophic nature" and exempt families from being taxed on reimbursements for reasonable post-disaster necessities, such as shelter, food, and clothing.

May 23, 2024: Senator Casey led his colleagues on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Children and Families to a bipartisan [East Palestine Health Impact Monitoring Act](#). This legislation would establish a five-year-long public health study with required annual reports for local experts to monitor potential long-term human health impacts in Pennsylvania and Ohio from the 2023 Norfolk Southern train derailment.