

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11**

INTROUDCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO FURTHER PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD FROM THE INHERENT DANGERS OF A TRAIN DERAILMENT ON THE TRACKS LOCATED IN OUR VILLAGE; AND URGING CONGRESS TO PASS SENATE BILL 576, THE RAILWAY SAFETY ACT OF 2023**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oakwood is adjacent to numerous commercial train tracks;  
and

**WHEREAS**, certain train operators operate on train tracks, twenty-four (24) hours of the day, seven (7) days a week, known commonly as Norfolk Southern Railway, CSX Transportation, and Amtrak; and

**WHEREAS**, railway derailments or accidents have occurred three times in Ohio cities of East Palestine, Springfield, and Cleveland in the past forty (40) days, resulting in the death of a Norfolk Southern train conductor, surrounding communities being forced to flee their homes, and the release of hazardous materials into the air and groundwater; and

**WHEREAS**, these railway derailments have caused and will continue to cause significant medical issues to the residents of the nearby communities where the incidents occurred, serious damage to the infrastructure located at/near the site of the derailments, and serious damage to the ecosystems at/near the sites, and

**WHEREAS**, further regulation of train operators relating to the tracks, routes, rail cars, employees and hazardous materials protocols is needed to provide the citizens throughout the State of Ohio with enhanced protection from injury and damage due to any future train derailments; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Ohio's two U.S. Senators, Sen. Sherrod Brown and Sen. JD Vance, are advancing bipartisan legislation, Senate Bill 576, The Railway Safety Act of 2023, to take clear actions to prevent future, man-made rail disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oakwood lacks active representatives and adequate points of contact from train operators to address local infrastructure and safety concerns; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio that:

**SECTION 1.** The Village of Oakwood through its Council hereby lends its support to the passage of Senate Bill 576 and the Clerk of Council be and is hereby authorized and directed to refer this resolution Sen. Brown and Sen. Vance.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: March 29, 2023

Johnnie A. Warren  
Johnnie A. Warren, President of Council

Debra L. Hladky  
Debra L. Hladky, Interim Clerk of Council

Presented to the  
Mayor March 29, 2023

Approved: March 31, 2023

Gary V. Gottschalk  
Mayor, Gary V. Gottschalk

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2023 -11 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the 29 day of March, 2023.

Debra L. Hladky  
Debra L. Hladky, Interim Clerk of Council

**POSTING CERTIFICATE**

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 2023 -11 was duly posted on the 31 day of March, 2023, and will remain posted for a period of fifteen (15) days thereafter as provided by the Oakwood Village Charter.

Debra L. Hladky  
Debra L. Hladky, Interim Clerk of Council

DATED: March 31 2023



24800 Broadway Ave  
Oakwood Village OH 44146  
[www.oakwoodvillageoh.com](http://www.oakwoodvillageoh.com)

March 31, 2023

Honorable Senator Sherrod Brown  
Carl B Stokes Federal Courthouse  
801 W Superior Ave  
Suite 1400  
Cleveland OH 44113

Dear Senator Brown:

Oakwood Village Council recently passed the enclosed resolution to further protect the citizens of the Village from the inherent dangers of a train derailment on the tracks located in our Village; and urging congress to pass Senate Bill 576, the Railway Safety Act of 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Hladky", written in a cursive style.

Debra L Hladky  
Interim Clerk of Council

Enclosure



24800 Broadway Ave  
Oakwood Village OH 44146  
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March 31, 2023

Senator J D Vance  
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Vance:

Oakwood Village Council recently passed the enclosed resolution to further protect the citizens of the Village from the inherent dangers of a train derailment on the tracks located in our Village; and urging congress to pass Senate Bill 576, the Railway Safety Act of 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L Hladky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Debra L Hladky  
Interim Clerk of Council

Enclosure