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February 24, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and  
Minority Leader Jeffries:

As Attorneys General of Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois and South Carolina we are joined by the 34 Attorneys General of the undersigned states to encourage action during the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress to support our efforts to combat the nationwide organized retail crime epidemic. The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress saw increased attention to this pressing issue, and we applauded the efforts in both the House and Senate to address it through the introduction of H.R.895/S.140 – Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2023 and S. 139 – Organized Retail Crime Center Authorization Act of 2023. This legislation would provide the necessary resources at the state and federal level to bring the organizations and individuals behind this nationwide problem to justice.

Organized retail crime has reached a level never before seen in this country and, unfortunately, no community is immune from the economic impact and the violence that comes with it. Across the country, retailers, such as: Walgreens, Walmart and Target, have been forced to close stores due to a combination of sustained financial losses and their employees being physically assaulted by organized retail crime rings. With financial losses totaling over \$121 billion and 76% of retail asset protection managers reporting their employees have suffered from violence at the hands of an organized retail criminals, Americans are paying the price. Many communities – including underrepresented communities – are devastated by store

closures leading to a lack of access to groceries, medication and the staples of everyday life.

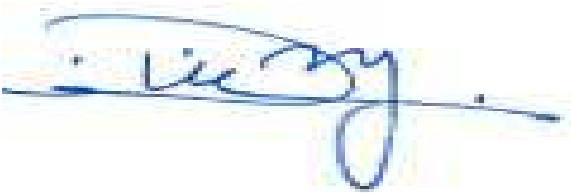
Many of our offices have formed task forces and created prosecution units to combat this growing problem but our resources are finite. Improved coordination with federal law enforcement, as envisioned by creation of an Organized Retail Crime Coordination Center at the Department of Homeland Security through the legislation proposed in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, would expand upon and synchronize our efforts with federal law enforcement to combat organized retail crime. This new entity would act as a force multiplier for our offices and facilitate the information sharing necessary to combat the complex cross-border nature of organized retail crime.

Beyond what we see at the local level, a significant component of organized retail crime is cargo theft, which disrupts supply chains and acts as an inflationary pressure on the price of everything from baby formula to clothing. The theft of essential supply chain infrastructure—such as pallets, crates and containers—further exacerbates these issues by hindering the movement of goods and contributing to delays and increased costs. We hope that when this important legislation is re-introduced in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress it will be strengthened by including provisions to increase federal penalties for supply chain thefts to act as a strong deterrent against the organized theft of goods in transit, which disrupts supply chains and affects every consumer.

Our prosecutors, and law enforcement officials work tirelessly to serve their communities in the face of growing, and increasingly sophisticated organized crime syndicates. But unfortunately, our resources are stretched thin. As Congress reconsiders this legislation, and continues consideration of the annual appropriations process, we also urge Congress to dedicate additional grant funding for state Attorneys General and local law enforcement to support investigations, prosecutions, and task force operations combating organized retail crime.

It is our hope that Congress will maintain its focus on these issues affecting our communities and provide resources needed to combat the epidemic of organized retail crime at the federal and local level. We look forward to working collaboratively with your offices on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Tong", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Tong  
Connecticut Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher M. Carr", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher M. Carr  
Georgia Attorney General

Kwame Raoul  
Illinois Attorney General

Alan Wilson  
South Carolina Attorney General

Steve Marshall  
Alabama Attorney General

Treg R. Taylor  
Alaska Attorney General

Kris Mayes  
Arizona Attorney General

Tim Griffin  
Arkansas Attorney General

Kathleen Jennings  
Delaware Attorney General

Brian Schwalb  
District of Columbia Attorney General

James Uthmeier  
Florida Attorney General

Anne E. Lopez  
Hawaii Attorney General



Brenna Bird  
Iowa Attorney General



Russell Coleman  
Kentucky Attorney General



Liz Murrill  
Louisiana Attorney General



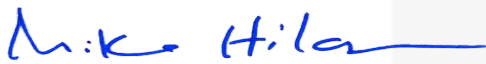
Anthony G. Brown  
Maryland Attorney General



Dana Nessel  
Michigan Attorney General



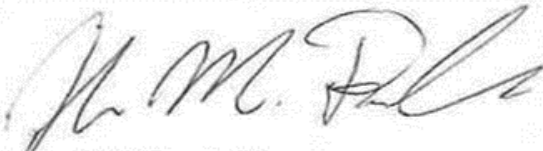
Keith Ellison  
Minnesota Attorney General



Mike Hilgers  
Nebraska Attorney General



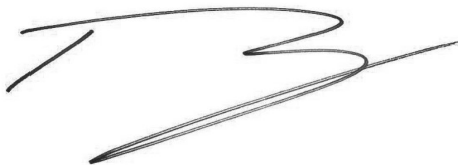
Aaron D. Ford  
Nevada Attorney General



John M. Formella  
New Hampshire Attorney General



Matthew J. Platkin  
New Jersey Attorney General



Raúl Torrez  
New Mexico Attorney General



Letitia James  
New York Attorney General



Jeff Jackson  
North Carolina Attorney General



Dave Yost  
Ohio Attorney General



Gentner Drummond  
Oklahoma Attorney General



Dan Rayfield  
Oregon Attorney General



Dave Sunday  
Pennsylvania Attorney General



Peter F. Neronha  
Rhode Island Attorney General



Marty Jackley  
South Dakota Attorney General



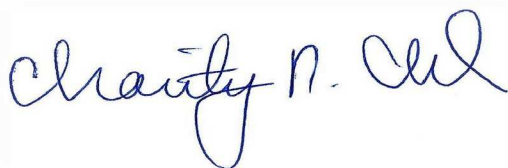
Jonathan Skrmetti  
Tennessee Attorney General



Gordon C. Rhea  
U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General



Derek Brown  
Utah Attorney General



Charity Clark  
Vermont Attorney General



Jason S. Miyares  
Virginia Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Brown". The script is fluid and cursive.

Nick Brown  
Washington Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. McCuskey". The script is bold and cursive.

John "JB" McCuskey  
West Virginia Attorney General



