



March 4, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FR: Derek Sangston, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Support for SB 960

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. For the record, I am Derek Sangston, policy director and counsel for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI).

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 960. OBI supports SB 960 because it would continue and expand the funding for the Organized Retail Theft Grant program administered by the Criminal Justice Commission. As you will hear later, this grant program has provided necessary support for local governments and law enforcement agencies to organize retail theft enforcement and collaborate on shared best practices.

Organized retail theft is a substantial problem plaguing the entire country. It remains an urban issue. It remains a rural issue. Organized retail theft has contributed to financial losses totaling more than \$121 billion in the U.S., and 76 percent of retailers report their workers being the victims of violence from organized retail criminals.

In Oregon alone, it is estimated that organized retail crime has cost the state \$1.4 billion in lost economic activity and reduced employment by over 8,000 jobs. Estimates show Oregon has missed out on over \$40 million in lost tax revenue. But this is not just about the economic losses. Organized retail crime presents very serious risks to the safety and wellbeing of customers, employees, and those who happen to be in proximity.

By continuing and expanding the funding for the Organized Retail Theft Grant program to \$10 million for the 2025-27 biennium, SB 960 would help local governments and law enforcement agencies leverage this important program to reduce organized retail theft rings throughout Oregon.

I urge your support. Thank you for your consideration.

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