

**BRANDON TOOLE**  
COUNCILMAN FIRST DISTRICT



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July 21, 2025

The Honorable Chris Coons  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons,

Delaware's freight rail system is a vital economic engine. It powers our industries, connects our communities, and anchors our role in regional and global commerce—especially through Port Wilmington and the broader Northeast corridor. Recent data from the Association of American Railroads makes this clear - in 2023, U.S. railroads added \$233 billion to the economy and sustained nearly 750,000 jobs.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the growing threat posed by organized retail crime and its disruptive impact on America's supply chain—particularly within the freight rail system. As these criminal networks become increasingly sophisticated, their ability to infiltrate and exploit our transportation infrastructure has placed tremendous strain on freight carriers, retailers, and ultimately, consumers.

I urge you to co-sponsor the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (S.1404). The bipartisan legislation strengthens rail security by creating a centralized coordination center that links law enforcement at all levels with railroad police. This streamlines responses to theft and enables joint investigations across jurisdictions. It also boosts data sharing and tools to track organized theft rings, identify hotspots, and recover stolen goods—protecting both the supply chain and national commerce.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Councilman First District

cc: Senator Lisa Blunt-Rochester