

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MARCUS C. EVANS, JR.

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CHAIR PERSON:
• Labor & Commerce

VICE CHAIR PERSON
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COMMITTEES
• Child Care Access & Early
Childhood
• Transportation Regulation, Roads,
& Bridges

July 17, 2025

The Honorable Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
United States Representative
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garcia:

As a long-time member of the House Transportation Committee and Chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee, I have seen concerning trends for Illinois retailers and the communities they serve as they have lost billions to theft. So much so, the Attorney General's office established the Illinois Organized Retail Crime Task Force to combat organized retail theft, as this has been a growing problem in the state for years now.

The entire supply chain, from warehouses and trucking to freight railroads, has also been impacted. This is problematic as Illinois is the nation's rail hub, and hundreds of trains pass through or dwell in yards around Chicago and the state each day. A robbery involving a freight train in Bellwood last month is just the latest in rail cargo thefts in Illinois.

Nationally, organized criminal operations continue to evolve and escalate their targeted attacks against the supply chain and retailers, including Class I railroads, which experienced a 40% spike in cargo theft last year. Federal action that enhances law enforcement coordination and increases prosecutions is vital to disrupting these criminal operations and protecting consumers and businesses from supply chain disruptions and increased costs.

The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA) will do just that by improving cross-agency coordination, enhancing data sharing, and equipping law enforcement with more effective legal tools. CORCA addresses the limitations faced by state and local authorities in tackling these organized and interstate criminal networks. I hope you will consider co-sponsoring this legislation, **H.R. 2853**, in efforts to strengthen national security and safeguard economic interests.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. C. Evans, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Marcus C. Evans, Jr.
Assistant Majority Leader
State Representative, 33rd District