



Representative Troy Downing (MT-02)

1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Downing,

On behalf of the Montana Treasure State Resources Association, whose mission is to “promote and enhance the Montana Way of Life through responsible resource development,” I write to express our strong support for the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA). As an organization uniting agriculture, labor, and resource-based industries, our association recognizes that a reliable rail system is foundational to Montana’s economic vitality and rural communities.

Montana businesses depend on rail to transport grain, energy products, equipment, and other essentials to market. Unfortunately, cargo theft along rail corridors has surged by approximately 40% in 2024, resulting in over \$100 million in losses nationally and more than 64,000 incidents impacting the Class I railroads. These thefts drive up costs for producers, disrupt supply chains, and threaten the integrity of Montana’s retail sector.

CORCA remedies these threats by establishing a permanent Organized Retail and Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center within Homeland Security, empowering federal, state, local, and railroad law enforcement to share intelligence, enhance prosecutions, and recover stolen assets—including criminal forfeiture and strengthened money-laundering statutes. Such a coordinated federal response is critical to disrupting organized criminal networks targeting rail and retail, mitigating operational hazards, and protecting communities.

For Montana’s agricultural, manufacturing, and service sectors, maintaining a secure rail corridor is synonymous with preserving market access, jobs, and economic resilience. CORCA directly aligns with our mission by reinforcing the backbone of responsible resource development. We urge you to Co-Sponsor HR 2853 the house version of this legislation to protect Montana’s supply chain, retail businesses, and rural economy.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Iverson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Iverson
Executive Director, Treasure State Resources Association