

1 **COMMITTEE: TRANSPORTATION AND LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

2 **POLICY: SECURING NATIONAL SUPPLY CHAINS THROUGH**
3 **THE COMBATING ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME ACT**

4 **TYPE: NEW RESOLUTION (REP. JAKE FEY AND REP. KAY**
5 **CHRISTOFFERSON)**

6 **WHEREAS**, organized retail and supply chain crime has escalated in both scale and
7 sophistication, threatening the integrity of the national supply chain by targeting freight
8 systems, including rail, leading to costly delays and heightened safety concerns; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the *Combating Organized Retail Crime Act* (CORCA) is a bipartisan effort
10 in Congress seeking to strengthen the federal response to organized cargo theft
11 through improved coordination, data-sharing, and enforcement; and

12 **WHEREAS**, a healthy and resilient logistics network, powered by freight rail, is vital to
13 U.S. economic competitiveness, job growth, industrial productivity, and ensuring
14 affordable goods for consumers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, America’s extensive freight system, anchored by 600 privately owned
16 railroads spanning nearly 140,000 miles, delivers 59 tons of goods for every American
17 annually, underscoring the importance of affordable and efficient transportation; and

18 **WHEREAS**, freight rail is a powerful economic engine, moving 40% of U.S. long-
19 distance freight and supporting a diverse workforce while generating activity in every
20 sector of the economy, from small farms to large-scale manufacturing facilities, and
21 contributing over \$230 billion annually to the U.S. economy; and

22 **WHEREAS**, trains are essential to international trade and cross-border goods
23 movement, with nearly 40% of rail traffic attributable to trade, without which supply
24 chains would be strained and the cost of goods would rise; and

25 **WHEREAS**, freight railroads fund their own infrastructure, spending \$23 billion annually
26 on average to maintain and upgrade tracks, equipment, and safety systems, and this
27 private investment provides public benefits like reduced traffic, emissions, and damage
28 to taxpayer-funded highways; and

29 **WHEREAS**, railroads are a major tax contributor, paying nearly \$16.7 billion in state and
30 federal taxes in 2023—supporting essential public services such as schools, emergency
31 services, and public infrastructure; and

32 **WHEREAS**, organized retail and supply chain crime incidents have surged nationwide,
33 with a 93% increase since 2019 and estimated losses reaching \$121.6 billion in 2023.
34 Intermodal rail containers—carrying high-value goods like electronics, toys, and
35 clothing—have become prime targets, with rail thefts rising 40% in 2024 alone, resulting
36 in over 65,000 incidents and \$100 million in losses; and

37 **WHEREAS**, this is not isolated or petty theft but a systemic, coordinated, effort by tech-
38 savvy, often transnational criminal networks targeting every link in the supply chain—
39 from rail yards and trucks to warehouses and retail centers; and

40 **WHEREAS**, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA) directly addresses
41 these challenges by improving cross-agency coordination, establishing a centralized
42 coordination center, expanding data-sharing, and strengthening legal authority across
43 jurisdictions; and

44 **WHEREAS**, that the legislation would create an Organized Retail and Supply Chain
45 Coordination Center to bring together federal law enforcement agencies with state and
46 local partners as well as railroad police to counter and dismantle domestic and
47 transnational organized theft operations; and

48 **WHEREAS**, that with strong bipartisan support and endorsement from law enforcement,
49 the retail industry, and freight carriers, CORCA will strengthen the resilience of our
50 state’s logistics and transportation systems and protect the economic lifelines of the
51 communities we represent; and

52 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NCSL recognizes this bipartisan bill would
53 modernize the federal response to international organized cargo and retail theft – and
54 urges Congress to pass the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA), H.R.
55 2853 and S.1404.