



GREATER MEMPHIS CHAMBER

July 31, 2025

The Honorable Steve Cohen
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cohen,

Thank you for cosponsoring H.R. 2853, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act. This bipartisan legislation is a critical step toward bolstering federal enforcement and enhancing interagency collaboration to address the increasingly complex threats posed by criminal enterprises targeting the supply chain.

Memphis plays a pivotal role in our national freight movement system, functioning as one of the most vital rail hubs due to its strategic location and connectivity. With service from five Class I railroads, the city's infrastructure facilitates efficient and scalable goods movement across regional and national corridors. However, these logistical strengths have also made Memphis a prime target for cargo theft, contributing to Tennessee's unfortunate ranking among the top states affected by cargo-related crime.

As freight rail continues to serve as the safest and most environmentally sustainable mode of overland freight transportation, its protection is vital. According to the Association of American Railroads, the industry generated over \$233 billion in economic output and supported nearly 750,000 jobs in 2023 alone. Safeguarding this infrastructure from theft ensures continued economic vitality and supply chain resilience.

Once again, thank you for the support of H.R. 2853 and your leadership in Congress on transportation issues.

Sincerely,



Ted Townsend
President & CEO
Greater Memphis Chamber