



Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

RE: Senate Bills 318 and 340

Public Hearing: Wednesday, March 8th, at 1 p.m.

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS 318 AND 340

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the Committee, my name is Jill McGinnis and I am the Director of Communications, Public Affairs and Government Relations with Safeway/Albertsons. I am here today on behalf of my company to testify in favor of Senate Bills 318 and 340. These bills will help provide both law enforcement and loss prevention tools to address organized retail crime (ORC) in Oregon.

ORC greatly impacts our community, as well as our business. Safeway and Albertsons have experienced \$15.5 million in property value loss in 8 years, in Multnomah County alone. ORC carries significant financial harm for businesses, drives costs higher for consumers, and creates unsafe working conditions for employees.

We urge the committee to support the following proposals to fund a statewide effort to minimize crime, allow for the aggregation of crimes when they do occur, and implement stiffer sentencing for ORC criminals:

- 1. Fund Oregon Department of Justice Research Analyst 3 and Criminal Investigators** to coordinate with local law enforcement, prosecutors, and private sector loss-prevention teams tasked primarily with investigating and prosecuting organized retail theft.
- 2. Establish and fund \$5 million local grant program** administered by the Criminal Justice Commission to support organized retail theft enforcement actions.
- 3. Critical policy changes to amend and strengthen current statutes** to allow law enforcement and prosecutors greater flexibility to detect, deter, and hold accountable those who commit organized retail theft.

Thank you for considering our testimony and the solutions that we are suggesting. We urge the legislature to pass SB 318 and 340. Thank you for your support, your consideration of these matters is very much appreciated.

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