



Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee
Honorable Chair Senator Floyd Prozanski
Honorable Vice Chair Senator Kim Thatcher

March 8th, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Jon Isaacs, and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs for the Portland Business Alliance.

The Portland Business Alliance (the Alliance) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health, and the region's overall prosperity. We represent over 2,100 members, from 27 counties, 14 states, and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

I am writing today to express the Alliance's support for Senate Bills 318 and 340.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, losses from organized retail crime have risen over **50% in the last five years**. This national rise in organized retail theft has unfortunately hit Portland businesses hard in the past few years.

The [2022 survey of Downtown Portland Businesses](#) conducted by Downtown Portland Clean & Safe Enhanced Service District found that an astonishing 85% of businesses, including large and small retailers, had been impacted by crimes such as theft and break-ins in the past year.

The Alliance regularly hears from retailers of all sizes the toll this rise in crime is taking on their employees, places of business, and their bottom lines.

Addressing the impact of organized retail theft and other crimes against businesses is one of the Alliance's top 2023 policy priorities. The Alliance urges the committee to support SB 318 and SB 340. These bills will provide law enforcement critical tools and funding to deter organized retail theft and ensure retailers that Oregon is a safe and profitable state to conduct businesses and support their employees.

We respectfully urge the committee to support the passage of both SB 318 and 340.

Jon Isaacs (*he/him*)

Vice President, Public Affairs

PORTLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE

jisaacs@portlandalliance.com

