

Chair Kropf, Members of the Committee, my name is Jeremy Girard and I am the Retail President of the Organized Retail Crime Association of Oregon, as well as a Corporate ORC Investigator for a big box retailer. I am here representing the Organized Retail Crime Association of Oregon, and the Oregon Organized Retail Crime Task Force, and offer my full support for senate bill 340.

Before I begin I do want to be very clear, that this bill does NOT have anything to do with petty theft. The goal of this bill is to provide the tools to help disrupt and dismantle Organized Crime Rings. As you've heard from previous testimony Organized Retail Crime is a very serious issue and it is affecting the retail community tremendously. According to the National Retail Federation, in 2021 retailers across the nation lost over \$94.5 billion dollars from ORC and theft. And it has only continued to get worse. Oregon is no exception and I can tell you, it has become one of the most active States regarding Organized Retail Crime, with many local retailers, in your districts, reporting between 1 & 10 million dollars of loss in a single store location every year. With these numbers it should be no surprise that we're already starting to see retailers shutter stores in Oregon and I fear if we do not take action this trend will continue.

Senate bill 340 and the changes within the bill will help us stay aligned with surrounding States. Help hold accountable these repeat offenders that are impacting retail stores for hundreds of thousands of dollars and pose a serious threat to the safety of retail employees across our State. This bill will give retailers, Law Enforcement, and District Attorneys the tools needed to hold the most serious offenders accountable.

I want to share a recent example of an individual who was impacting retail stores all over the Portland Metro area conducting aggressive smash & grab incidents. This individual impacted 3 retailers for over \$300K and after many attempts to arrest him, he was finally arrested and charged with over 15 felonies. Unfortunately, within 2 days he was released and continued to impact stores for another 4 months. He went on to pepper spray and assault 2 separate employees, who attempted to confront him, rammed Police cars and eluded multiple times, before finally being arrested again in Clark County, Washington where he has been held for over 5 months. The reason I share this, he is the type of individual who needs to be held accountable and it took him getting arrested in another State before he was finally kept in jail. Again, this is the type of criminal Senate Bill 340 addresses. Not petty theft, but Organized Retail Crime.

This is just one example of many and I ask that you support the retail community by supporting Senate Bill 340 and help retailers stay profitable and keep the retail community safe.