MAYOR REX RICHARDSON
CITY OF LONG BEACH

December 16, 2025

The Honorable Robert Garcia
109 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nanette Barragán
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 2853 (Joyce)—The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act

Dear Representatives Garcia and Barragán,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City is in strong support of H.R. 2853, The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA). The City is home to one of the busiest port complexes in the world, which has made significant investments in clean and efficient goods movement industries such as rail. The strong and efficient freight rail network within the ports is critical to the local economy and to communities across the country. Rail keeps goods moving, reduces truck traffic on our freeways, improves air quality, and supports thousands of jobs connected to the City and Port of Long Beach.

Freight railroad operators invest heavily in their own infrastructure, with more than $830 billion spent since 1980 on tracks, equipment, technology, and safety improvements. These private investments have helped drive down accident rates and make rail the safest and greenest way to move freight over land, emitting 75 percent fewer greenhouse gases per ton-mile than trucks. Despite these investments, rail still faces significant challenges from organized retail crime. Criminal groups targeting rail are often highly organized and use modern tactics and technology which results in significant losses for businesses and consumers. Unfortunately, state and local authorities have limited tools to address this growing challenge and to hold perpetrators accountable. H.R. 2853 would strengthen the federal response to rail theft by improving cross-agency coordination, enhancing data sharing practices across industry partners, and optimizing grant programs for training and enforcement against organized retail theft impacting rail. Supporting and funding the local agencies that actively participate in the task force is essential to sustaining a coordinated and effective response to retail theft.

A resilient, efficient freight rail system strengthens the entire national economy, and it is especially critical to Long Beach and the millions of Americans who depend on the goods moving through our ports. Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership on infrastructure and supply-chain issues that matter deeply to the city and region.

Sincerely,

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach

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