



**INSPIRED LEADERS  
SHAPING CITIES**

INTERNATIONAL DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION  
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November 15, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ken Buck  
2455 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
2065 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susie Lee  
365 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The International Downtown Association (IDA), the national voice of downtown management organizations, commends you for introducing the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act.

IDA is the premier organization for non-profit associations that make downtowns and urban districts vibrant, safe and prosperous in partnership with local businesses, civic leaders and government officials. Our members work to bring business, visitors, and residents into city centers, keep streets clean and safe, create and run public spaces like parks, and organize events and festivals that bring downtowns to life. We represent an industry of more than 2,500 place management organizations, employing 100,000 people throughout North America who are passionate about making downtowns of all shapes and sizes places where people want to live, work and play.

In recent years, the increase in organized retail crime has led to a vicious cycle in downtowns: retail theft has caused some retailers to close their doors. The loss of activity, coupled with fear about crime, dissuades workers, shoppers and visitors from coming downtown, which further threatens the viability of all retail businesses in urban centers. Addressing the root causes of organized retail crime is critical to restoring vitality to downtowns.

By establishing a Center to Combat Organized Retail Crime in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and creating new tools to assist in the investigation and prosecution of organized retail crime, your legislation empowers public and private stakeholders to work collaboratively to combat this growing problem.

IDA commends you for introducing this legislation, and we urge both chambers of Congress to pass it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Downey". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David Downey  
President & CEO