



April 4, 2024

Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1960 (Soria) – Sentencing enhancements: property loss

Chair McCarty:

The California Retailers Association (CRA) and the organizations listed below are pleased to support Assembly Bill 1960, which reinstates provisions of the Penal Code authorizing sentencing enhancements for taking, damaging, or destroying property in the commission or attempted commission of a felony.

Over the past several years, we have seen a troubling rise in organized retail theft and other large-scale property crimes across California, undermining the sense of safety and security in our communities. This criminal activity has forced businesses to spend millions annually on security measures, such as guards, cameras, and store redesigns. As businesses have significantly invested in securing their properties, thieves have become increasingly brazen through “smash and grab” incidents. Retail employees and customers are increasingly feeling unsafe, and the simple act of shopping has become burdensome for many. Those who deliberately target and destroy property in the commission of felonies must be held accountable.

Our communities have seen instances of groups using hammers to break jewelry cases, throwing objects through windows, destroying displays and entire aisles, and driving vehicles into buildings. By imposing stricter penalties for individuals damaging property through these acts, AB 1960 serves as a deterrent against “smash and grabs” and retail crime. It sends a clear message that such illicit and dangerous activities will not be tolerated, thereby helping to protect businesses, consumers, and communities from the adverse effects of criminal behavior.

We ask the Assembly Committee on Public Safety pass AB 1960.

Sincerely,



Ryan Allain
Director, Government Affairs
California Retailers Association

On behalf of:



Matthew Hargrove
President & Chief Executive Officer
California Business Properties Association
BOMA California
NAIOP California



Tracy Hernandez
Founding CEO
Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed)



Sara Catalán
President and CEO
Catalán Consulting on behalf of OC TAX



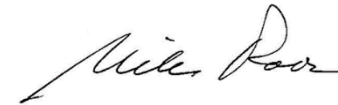
Brenda Bass
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce



Mark Smith
UCAN Advocate
United Chamber Advocacy Network (UCAN)



Amanda Walsh
Vice President of Government Affairs
Orange County Business Council



Mike Roos
President
Southern California Leadership Council