

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche,

We write to underscore the urgent need for the Department of Justice (the Department) to fully implement the funding provided by Congress in the FY2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Act to establish dedicated special prosecutors focused on combating supply chain fraud, cargo theft, organized retail crime (ORC), and related financial fraud schemes, including gift card fraud.

Cargo theft and ORC have escalated dramatically in recent years, affecting freight rail, trucking, retailers, and the broader U.S. economy. These crimes are not isolated or opportunistic, but are increasingly conducted by organized, sophisticated criminal networks operating across state and national borders. Through the resale of stolen goods and related monetization schemes, these criminal rings often engage in broader illicit activities, including drug trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism.

As organized retail crime and supply chain theft grow in scope and complexity, their impacts extend well beyond financial loss, harming retailers, consumers, employees, and communities. These crimes increasingly involve violence, threats, and intimidation that endanger frontline workers and create unsafe conditions in stores, warehouses, transportation hubs, and communities across the country.

Despite significant arrests by law enforcement, prosecutions frequently do not follow. State and local prosecutors—already resource constrained—struggle to pursue complex, multijurisdictional theft cases. Congress recognized this gap and acted. Through the appropriations process, Congress directed the Department to provide information on high-impact jurisdictions to prioritize federal prosecution of supply chain theft and ORC. This investment will allow the Department to:

- Develop specialized expertise in complex cargo-theft, ORC cases, and related financial fraud cases;

- Strengthen coordination with federal partners such as Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), as well as state and local law enforcement and prosecutors;
- Establish a prosecutorial model that can be replicated nationwide; and
- Deter increasingly sophisticated criminal enterprises that are exploiting our supply chain and the retail ecosystem

We strongly urge the Department to move swiftly to implement the FY2026 funding and to establish this critical enforcement capacity without delay. The continued rise in cargo theft, ORC, and gift card fraud presents a growing threat to workers, consumers, the movement of essential goods, and the broader American economy.

Thank you for your leadership and for your attention to this urgent matter. The report language is enclosed with this letter for your convenience. We welcome the opportunity to meet with the Department and collaborate on efforts to strengthen enforcement and disrupt the organized criminal networks driving these crimes.

Sincerely,

American Property Casualty Insurance Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Association of American Railroads  
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers  
Auctane  
Catalyst Brands  
DHL  
GE Appliances, Haier  
Intermodal Association of North America  
International Bridge, Inc.  
Meat Import Council of America  
Milwaukee Tool  
National Auto Auction Association  
National Independent Auto Dealers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Retail Federation  
Recycled Materials Association  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Supply Chain Federation  
The Travelers Companies, Inc.  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Dairy Export Council

UPS  
World Shipping Council

Enclosure

cessful reentry, including by securing employment or continuing their education.

*Election Threats Task Force.*—The Committee continues to be concerned by the rise in threats against election workers, administrators, officials, and others associated with the electoral process. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department to prioritize investigations into threats made against election workers, administrators, officials, and volunteers. The Committee also urges DOJ to address threats of violence against election workers and to ensure that all election workers are permitted to do their jobs free from threats and intimidation. In order to improve outreach to election workers and organizations representing them, the Committee directs the Department to make all policies and procedures related to submitting threat reports, and understanding what to expect after filing a report, as well as the rights and protections offered to election workers, administrators, officials, and volunteers under current law, publicly available on its website.

*Sextortion.*—The Committee adopts the language in Senate Report 118–198 under this caption and reiterates any reporting requirements.

*COVID–19 Fraud.*—The Committee remains appalled by the individuals who, in a time of grave national crisis, enriched themselves through fraud against unemployment insurance and other pandemic-related aid programs. The Committee commends the Department for prioritizing the investigation and prosecution of such crimes. Within 180 days of the date of the enactment of this act, the Criminal Division, the Civil Division, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys shall individually report on their respective efforts to address COVID–19 related fraud. This report shall describe: all relevant metrics, including the number of indictments and convictions, the amounts contemplated by settlements and judgments, and the amounts of actual recoveries, by fiscal year and by program; an estimate of the scope of criminal activity, including an estimate of the amount of losses to the United States Government; and a detailed description of each components' strategic plan for addressing fraud pandemic-related aid programs, with specific attention to unemployment insurance fraud.

*Investigating and Prosecuting Cyber Crime.*—The Committee recognizes the growing threat of cyber crime that crosses borders and commends the efforts taken by the Office of International Affairs, Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, and the FBI's Cyber Assistant Legal Attaché [ALATs]. The Committee is encouraged by the FBI's expansion of the Cyber ALAT Program, which works with international partners to increase investigation efficiencies, enhance evidentiary exchange, and conduct joint cyber operations. In light of the challenges posed by evolving technologies and strategies, the Committee directs the Department to ensure adequate resources are available for investigations and prosecutions to keep pace with growing cyber threats in order to build partner country capacity and successfully prosecute crimes to secure justice for victims and deter future criminal behavior.

*Combating Cargo Theft.*—The Committee is concerned with the alarming rise in supply chain fraud and cargo theft throughout the railroad, commercial motor vehicle, and intermodal transportation

systems. The Committee recognizes that cargo theft offenses are often associated with organized crime syndicates, drug trafficking, and illicit finance, and have a significant adverse impact on the United States economy. The Committee directs the Department to provide a briefing, within 120 days of the date of enactment of this act, on plans to establish regional task forces, led by the FBI and in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations, the Transportation Security Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Federal, State, and local enforcement agencies, to investigate and refer related cases for prosecution.

The Committee further directs the Executive Office for United States Attorneys to submit a report, within 90 days of enactment of this act, identifying the USAOs with the highest rates of crimes involving cargo theft, including under sections 659, 1991, and 2117 of title 18, United States Code. The Committee directs those USAOs with the highest rates of cargo theft, or a significant rail presence, to assign at least one additional attorney to cargo theft prosecutions.

*Illegal E-Cigarette Coordination & Enforcement.*—The Committee is concerned that the wide availability of unauthorized e-cigarettes has contributed to millions of children using addictive vapor products, despite the statutory pre-market authorization requirement. The Department has commenced the first injunctions against manufacturers of illegal e-cigarettes; however, the Committee notes this only captures a small fraction of violative products and that there is no safe harbor for an unauthorized e-cigarette with a pending application. The Committee supports the recent multi-agency task force to combat this problem, and directs the Department, within 90 days of the enactment of this act, to submit a report detailing the task force's activities. The report shall specifically describe the task force's enforcement activities, including the investigation and prosecution of criminal, civil, seizure, and forfeiture actions, including enforcement actions against unauthorized e-cigarette manufacturers with pending applications and large market shares, and shall assess what additional criminal or civil authorities may be necessary to address this public health threat. The Department is further directed to provide a briefing to the Committee upon submission of the report.

*Federal Drug-Free School Zones.*—The Committee appreciates the Department's clarification that section 531 of this act does not explicitly preclude the USAOs from enforcing section 860 of title 21, United States Code. The Committee encourages the Department to continue to work to ensure that areas with young children, including schools and playgrounds, remain drug-free.

*Protecting Veterans' Benefits.*—The Committee adopts the reporting requirement in Senate Report 118–198 under this caption.

*Voting Rights.*—The Attorney General is directed to prioritize resources to enforce the civil provisions of Federal laws that protect the right to vote, including the Voting Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, and the Civil Rights Acts. The Attorney General is further directed to prioritize resources to enforce provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] to ensure disabled Americans can fully exercise their right