



August 1, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

I am writing on behalf of the National Retail Federation to express our support for H.R. 6852, the Porch Pirates Act of 2022. In light of the continued growth of ecommerce and the rising incidence of package theft, we believe this legislation provides needed protection for the benefit of consumers and businesses.

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail thrive. NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

The Porch Pirates Act of 2022, introduced by Rep. Dean Philips (MN-03), would extend the same protections afforded to the United States Postal Service (USPS) to private or commercial interstate carriers. The theft of packages from residences, distribution centers, drop-off boxes and those in transit would all incur the same penalties as the theft of USPS mail. Theft of mail or packages from private carriers is currently treated as a misdemeanor but would be escalated to a federal felony under H.R. 6852.

Package theft is not a new issue for retailers and consumers. A [2019 survey](#) found that 36 percent of consumers had been a victim of package theft, and 56 percent knew someone who had a package stolen. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the rate of these crimes. The same research firm in its [2020 survey](#) found that 43 percent of consumers experienced package theft. Driving these increases is the fact that [eight in 10 Americans](#) now shop online, increasing opportunities for criminals.

Porch piracy is extremely costly for retailers, both financially and reputationally. The 2020 C+R report found the average cost to replace a stolen package was \$109. Arguably more harmful, however, are the hit to brand reputation and the customers lost due to poor delivery experiences. This legislation would also benefit retailers by leveling the playing field when

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choosing which carrier to ship their products with, allowing them to focus solely on the most favorable rates.

H.R. 6852 will not solve the porch piracy issue on its own. Porch piracy and other organized retail crimes requires a broader coordinated effort between the public and private sectors. However, this legislation is an important step in curbing the surge in these crimes. We urge you to consider cosponsoring and supporting the Porch Pirates Act of 2022.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "French".

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations