

# Stop Organized Retail & Supply Chain Crime

Support HF 2879 (Witte/Norris) / SF 3290 (Latz/Limmer)

## A Growing Threat Driving Up Family Costs, Harming Communities

Minnesota is facing an growing threat from organized retail and supply chain crime driven by **sophisticated, multi-layered, often multi-national, criminal enterprises.**

These organized criminal networks target every point in the supply chain—stores, warehouses, freight rail, trucking routes, & distribution centers—creating ripple effects that **raise costs for consumers, endanger workers, disrupt communities, & erode the tax base.**

- Minnesota ranks in the **top 10 nationally for retail theft** with incidents occurring 10% higher than expected based on population.
- Cargo theft is now a **\$15-\$35 billion national criminal industry.**

### A \$400K lobster heist with a Minnesota connection

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A Massachusetts shipping facility is reportedly at the center of a federal investigation into an alleged heist of a \$400,000 shipment of live lobster **bound for Costco locations in Minnesota and Chicago...** It is pretty safe to say that this is a **theft ring of some sort,** Rexing said. "I'm not sure exactly who is involved, but yeah, it is a **big problem.**" "This is **not a mom-and-pop organization,**" Rexing said. "These folks are out there looking for products that you buy in the store, and they're looking for easy targets, higher value goods, easily moved. We need our government organizations to do more."

### The Problem: Fragmentation



- Identifying patterns is more challenging when activity spans jurisdictions.
- Complex cases require coordination & resources.
- As criminal networks grow more sophisticated, our response must evolve to keep pace.
- These gaps are exploited by sophisticated criminal networks.

### The Solution: Coordinated Statewide Response

- Bring the **experts** to the table and **working together.**
- Coordinate quickly **across jurisdictions.**
- Support **dedicated resources & a clearer pathway** to build enterprise-level cases.
- Identify patterns, track repeat offenders, & **connecting incidents** across regions.
- Expand **training** and best practices.
- Leverage **resources** more effectively.



For more info, contact any of these supporting organizations or Will Hagen, MN Retailers, [will@mnretail.org](mailto:will@mnretail.org).

## University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies Event Examines the Problem & Confirms the Urgency

A September 9, 2025 convening by the Center for Transportation Studies brought together industry experts, law enforcement, and supply chain leaders to assess the growing threat of cargo and supply chain crime. The findings were clear: **"Since 2021, theft and fraud in the supply chain has rapidly escalated, with a multitude of crimes being committed by sophisticated, multi-national criminal actors, among others."**

Stakeholders identified a **lack of coordinated reporting, enforcement, and prosecution** as a central barrier to effectively addressing these crimes.

Full report: <https://www.cts.umn.edu/research/featured/unpackingfreight/securing>

## 17 States Have Implemented a Coordinated Statewide Response Task Force Approach

States from **California to Florida** have already implemented **coordinating task forces** to combat organized enterprise theft—with strong results. And Minnesota has a model it can build from—the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force. Created in 2000, this task force demonstrates how a multi-jurisdictional, collaborative approach with dedicated resources and coordination can successfully address complex, modern criminal activity.

### Costs of Inaction

Without action, the trajectory is clear:



- **Higher prices** for Minnesota families.
- **Loss of tax revenue** to the state.
- **Expansion of organized criminal networks**, which fund human, drug & weapons trafficking, and violent crime.
- **Increased risks** for communities.
- Business **closures and lost investment**.

These costs are already being felt—and they will only grow.

### The Opportunity



Minnesota has momentum. A 2023 organized retail crime definition law created a foundation. HF 2879/SF 3290 is the next step—moving from definition to execution and coordination.

This is a **bipartisan** opportunity to:

- **Shut down** organized criminal enterprises
- **Strengthen** public safety
- **Protect** communities
- **Support** businesses & our tax base across MN

**Organized enterprise crime is growing, evolving, & becoming more dangerous. Minnesota cannot afford a fragmented response to a coordinated threat.**

**HF 2879/SF 3290 provides the structure needed to act now.**