



August 12, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1972 (Alanis) Regional Property Crimes Task Force.
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE *(As Amended on June 26, 2024)*

Dear Governor Newsom,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) respectfully requests your **signature** on measure AB 1972 (Alanis) which would require the Department of the California Highway Patrol and the Department of Justice's regional property crimes task force to assist railroad police in combatting cargo theft.

As you may know, retail theft continues to be a problem in nearly all California communities. For example, commercial burglary is at the highest rate since 2008. In fact, according to the PPIC, commercial burglary increased statewide since 2020, especially in larger counties with an increase of 13% among 14 of the 15 largest counties. To address rising theft, city officials need additional tools to reduce crime and improve the safety of their neighborhoods.

Existing law required the California Highway Patrol and the Department of Justice to coordinate to convene a regional property crimes task force to identify regions of the state experiencing increased rates of property crimes and assist law enforcement in these areas. Cargo theft crimes have serious impacts on California's businesses and cause further disruption in the supply chain.

Cargo theft has not been included in the consideration of offenses that constitute property crime and therefore fall outside of the scope of this task force. Increasing incidents and levels of organization from those committing these thefts require greater coordination from law enforcement to address this issue. This bill would require the Regional Property Crimes Task Force to assist railroad police with combatting cargo theft and consider the offense eligible for assistance from the task force.

AB 1972 is part of a package of bills that will make important changes to retail theft. Preventing and responding to all types of retail theft, including cargo theft, is one of the priorities Cal Cities has identified that need to be addressed before real progress can be made, however all of the proposed changes in the retail theft legislative package are needed in order to comprehensively address this issue.



For these reasons, Cal Cities **urges your signature** on AB 1972 (Alanis). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 658-8252 or jvoorhis@calcities.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jolena Voorhis".

Jolena Voorhis
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Juan Alanis
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office