



January 25, 2023

Senator Liz Krueger, Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Assemblymember Helene E. Weinstein, Chair, Assembly Ways and Means Committee  
Senator Jamaal T. Bailey, Chair, Senate Codes Committee

Codes Committee, New York State Senate  
Legislative Office Building, Room 609  
Albany, NY 12247

**Re: Support for Governor Hochul's initiatives to combat retail theft**

Dear Senator Bailey and Committee Members,

The Five Borough Jobs Campaign is a New York City-wide coalition of local economic development corporations, business improvement districts, and businesses fighting to bring new jobs to our communities and create a more sustainable economic future for us all. We are writing to you to express our strong support for Governor Hochul's initiatives to combat rampant retail theft, which has become one of the most alarming and unchecked issues threatening retailers and businesses across New York City.

In 2022, New York City experienced a [45% year-over-year increase](#) of retail theft. The city has also had the [largest increase in reported shoplifting](#) in the country since 2019. As a result, New York State retailers lost [\\$4.4 billion](#) in revenue to theft in 2022. Our small businesses cannot continue to bear the financial impact of this without decisive action from the State.

Additionally, retail employment opportunities for low-income New Yorkers are still down 11% since 2020, a key reason why NYC employment recovery lags other major metro areas. If we want to see businesses thrive and more job opportunities, we need to ensure that both workers and patrons feel safe and that their stores are protected from senseless theft.

We can help curb retail theft, protect small businesses, and create jobs by passing three key pieces of legislation – [S1644](#), [S4448](#), and [S5479](#) – which would put stronger punishments on retail theft and repeat offenders, and protect our retail employees as essential workers.

We applaud Governor Hochul's commitment to curbing retail theft, and we urge you to advance these common sense reforms to protect businesses of all sizes in every borough.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,  
The Five Borough Jobs Campaign