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Vermont House Committee on Judiciary
State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Subject: Concerns Regarding Retail Theft and Its Negative Impact on Downtown Brattleboro Merchants

Dear Rep. LaLonde, Rep. Burditt, and Members of the Vermont House Committee on Judiciary,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Kate Trzaskos, and I am writing to express my deep concerns about the escalating issue of retail theft and its adverse effects on the merchants in downtown Brattleboro.

Downtown Brattleboro has long been a vibrant and integral part of our community, serving as a hub for local businesses that contribute to the town's economic vitality. Unfortunately, the increasing incidents of retail theft are threatening the livelihoods of these merchants and diminishing the overall appeal of our downtown area.

Retail theft not only results in financial losses for the affected businesses but also contributes to an atmosphere of insecurity and unease among both merchants and customers. The sense of

community and trust that is crucial for the success of our local businesses is eroding due to these criminal activities.

The negative impact is not limited to economic losses but extends to the overall perception of our town. Visitors and residents alike may become hesitant to frequent downtown establishments, fearing the potential for theft or vandalism. This, in turn, jeopardizes the diverse and unique character that makes Brattleboro such a special place to live and visit.

I urge the Vermont House Judiciary Committee to consider implementing stronger measures to address retail theft and protect the interests of our local businesses. This may include increased law enforcement presence, enhanced security measures, and stricter penalties for those found guilty of committing such offenses.

Additionally, I propose increasing resources for community-based initiatives that foster collaboration between local businesses, law enforcement, and residents. By working together, we can create a safer and more secure environment that encourages economic growth and supports the continued success of downtown Brattleboro.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I trust that the Committee will give due consideration to the concerns raised by the community and take appropriate action to address the challenges posed by retail theft.

Sincerely,

Kate Trzaskos