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March 23, 2026

Representative Julie Coulombe  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 77 – Mail Theft

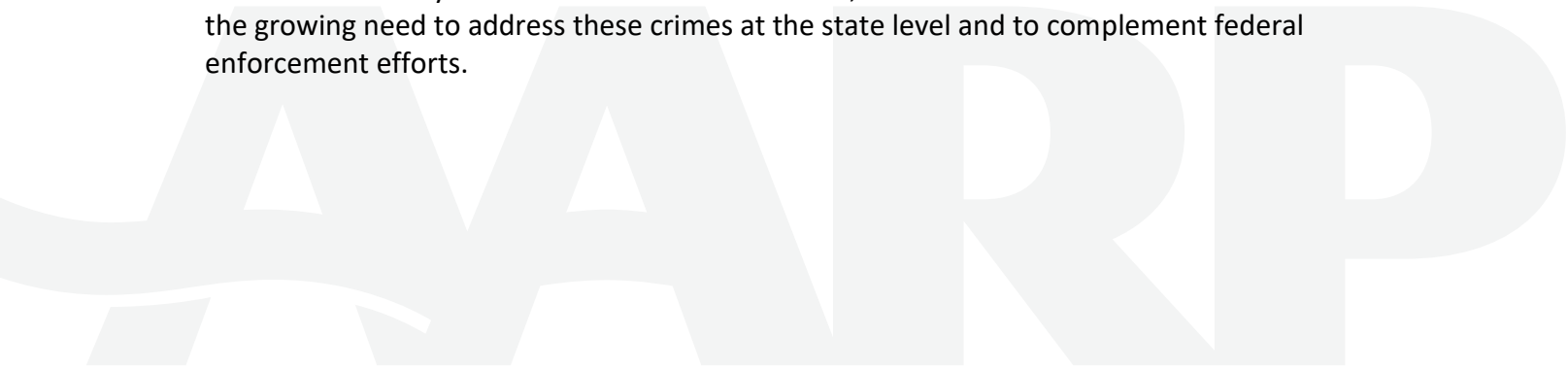
Dear Representative Coulombe,

On behalf of AARP Alaska and our members statewide, I am writing to express our support for HB 77, legislation that would establish mail theft as theft in the second degree under Alaska law.

Mail theft is not a minor offense—it is often the first step in more serious crimes, including identity theft, financial exploitation, and fraud. Older Alaskans are disproportionately impacted by these crimes, as they are more likely to receive financial documents, benefit checks, prescription medications, and other sensitive materials through the mail. When mail is stolen, the consequences can be devastating and long-lasting.

Currently, Alaska lacks a specific statute that clearly addresses mail theft as a serious crime. HB 77 appropriately modernizes state law by clearly defining mail theft and strengthening penalties, providing law enforcement and prosecutors with clearer authority to investigate and hold offenders accountable. These changes will help deter criminal activity, close existing loopholes, and better protect Alaskans—particularly seniors and other vulnerable populations—from financial harm.

AARP Alaska also appreciates that HB 77 includes reasonable defenses and exemptions to ensure that lawful and common-sense actions—such as collecting mail for a household member or with permission—are not unintentionally penalized. This balanced approach strengthens public safety while respecting everyday realities for families and caregivers. Mail theft and the fraud that often follows undermine financial security, personal safety, and trust in essential systems. HB 77 is a commonsense, consumer-focused measure that reflects the growing need to address these crimes at the state level and to complement federal enforcement efforts.



For these reasons, AARP Alaska respectfully urges your support for HB 77. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and your commitment to protecting Alaskans from fraud and financial exploitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on behalf of older Alaskans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marge Stoneking". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marge Stoneking  
Advocacy Director