



The Voice of Small Business®

ALASKA

February 4, 2013

**The Honorable John Coghill
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182**

RE: Senate Bill 43

Dear Senator Coghill:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully inform you of our opposition to Senate Bill 43. In a recent NFIB/Alaska member ballot our membership voted overwhelmingly to oppose any increase in the felony theft threshold. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

NFIB/AK members recognize that \$500 is a significant amount to a small business, and the state shouldn't be making it easier for thieves to steal from them by raising the felony theft threshold to \$1,500. There is substantial evidence that theft rings are becoming very sophisticated; they are aware of the felony limits and will steal up to that amount. Thus, while there might be potential savings in judicial processes, businesses would see a tripling of the amount of theft in goods. Instances of individuals "stealing to feed their families" are rare, and the courts and prosecutors have enough discretion to handle these circumstances appropriately. We believe that simply inflation-proofing crime is poor public policy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dennis L. DeWitt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director**

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council