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For Immediate Release

Contact: Liz Jennings (703) 600-2063

House Judiciary Committee Leaders Join Fight to Pass Federal Legislation to Combat Organized Retail Crime

Washington, DC – House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith (R-TX) and Congressman Robert Goodlatte (R-VA) this week introduced legislation to combat the growth of organized retail crime (ORC), announced the Coalition Against Organized Retail Crime.

With the introduction of Organized Retail Crime Prevention and Enforcement Act of 2009, HR 4011, Ranking Member Smith and Congressman Goodlatte join House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime Terrorism and Homeland Security Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA), Congressman Brad Ellsworth (D-IN), Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL), Amy Klobuchar and dozens of other Members of Congress determined to pass federal legislation to give law enforcement the tools they need to combat and deter organized retail crime.

“The Coalition Against Organized Retail Crime applauds Ranking Member Smith and Congressman Goodlatte for introducing legislation to combat organized retail crime and welcome their effort to protect consumers by putting these criminals out of business,” said the Coalition Against Organized Retail Crime.

The introduction of HR 4011 brings the total number of bills introduced in Congress to address the problem of organized retail crime to four. Other bills under consideration are:

The E-fencing Enforcement Act of 2009 (HR 1166), introduced by Chairman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA), would impose reasonable duties on online marketplaces when there is good reason to believe that items listed for sale were acquired unlawfully.

The Organized Retail Crime Act of 2009 (HR 1173), introduced by Rep. Brad Ellsworth (D-IN), which modifies the federal criminal code to include ORC activities, and makes the facilitation of ORC a crime. The legislation also imposes practical reporting requirements on the operators of online marketplaces and sellers when goods are suspected of having been acquired through ORC.

The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2009 (S 470), introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) would clarify existing law to give law enforcement the tools to fight ORC, require on-line and off-line market places to investigate suspicious sales, and place basic disclosure requirements on on-line marketplaces.

About the Coalition Against Organized Retail Crime

The CAORC, formed in 2001, is composed of 37 national manufacturing and retail organizations as well as individual companies that have come together to fight this growing crime. The Coalition’s web site can be accessed at www.stopretailcrime.com. The Coalition strongly supports enactment of pending federal legislation to combat ORC in the House of Representatives.

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