

COUNTY OF OAKLAND  
**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**

**MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD**



February 5, 2019

The Honorable Jim Runestad  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Senator Runestad:

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding Senate Bill 23 and 24, which will create legislation to combat mail theft in the state of Michigan.

As currently written, I am in support of giving local law enforcement the ability to go after those who steal mail and packages from our citizens. While the United States Postal Inspectors do a great job with their investigations, they are often overwhelmed with the complaints due to the large volume of theft which is occurring. Between 2017 and 2018, there were over 1900 mail theft complaints and over 17,000 Amazon package theft complaints in the state. Out of those which occurred, Oakland County had 401 mail theft complaints and 935 Amazon package theft complaints.

With the rise of delivery services both through the United States Postal Service and privately-owned companies, theft continues to rise, and criminals are getting more sophisticated in their tactics. Having the ability to enforce mail theft penalties will be helpful for both law enforcement and victims of this type of crime.

That being said, the penalties currently prescribed in this legislation seem a bit high for the crime at hand. Stealing a check as a first offense would have the same penalty as being involved in a complex prescription drug theft ring. These penalties are higher than what is current law for some violent crimes including those involving guns. While we would like to see increases in penalties for violent crimes, I would recommend reevaluating those described in this bill regarding mail theft. From some of the substitute language I have been able to review, the newer versions of this legislation seem more on track with reasonable penalties for this type of crime.

I am happy to lend my support to this legislation. If you should have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Bouchard".

Michael J. Bouchard  
Oakland County Sheriff