

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, 42 percent of Washington state's total sales tax revenue is collected by the retail industry; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the retail sector accounted for \$221 billion in gross taxable income, making it the leading generator of tax revenue in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the industry is the second-largest private sector employer providing jobs to nearly 400,000 people across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, corporate environmental sustainability has become a top priority for the industry and retailers are partnering with stakeholders to develop and implement best practices; and

**WHEREAS**, retailers actively invest in the communities they serve by providing charitable resources and financial contributions to organizations that deliver essential services to community members; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety of employees and customers being a top priority, the Washington Legislature funded an Organized Retail Crime Unit in the Office of the Attorney General to increase coordination efforts and resources and reinstated safe vehicular police pursuits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature has required the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to form a workgroup to identify education opportunities and programs to promote careers in the retail sector, and to implement pilot programs that offer short-term credentials in support of a stronger retail workforce;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2024 as

### *Careers in Retail Month*

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

