Dear [Candidate],

Whether through neighbourhood shops or larger multi-location banners, retail is the largest private employer in Alberta – larger then oil, mining and agriculture combined.

* Over 265,000 Albertans work in retail at over 17,000 locations – retail means local community jobs.
* 64% of retailers in Alberta are small businesses with fewer than 10 employees; supporting retail means supporting small business and your community.
* Retail generates over $90 billion in annual sales in Alberta alone.

Government policies affect the competitiveness of Alberta retailers. As the industry goes through an important transformation with the growth of online shopping, Alberta retailers want to continue to contribute to the growth of jobs and our economy. To do this, we need your party's support, including these issues as outlined by Retail Council of Canada:

* **A Predictable Minimum Wage**. Unpredictable increases to the provincial minimum wage can hurt the economic stability of retail businesses, and can result in lost jobs, especially amongst less experienced youth. Llnk inevitable future increases to the provincial minimum wage to Alberta’s Consumer Price Index, or some similar predictable formula.
* **Supporting Student Jobs**: The retail sector offers great part-time opportunities for students entering the workforce for the first time. Alberta’s student rate has helped support the employment of those that don’t bring the same level of ability that experienced workers can provide.Support employment for those entering the workforce for the first time by retaining the Student Rate differential?
* **Retail Safety and Crime:** Retail employees are on the front line of endless threats to their safety, as a result of prolific and often violent offenders using a range of dangerous weapons and tactics, as well as complex interactions with those dealing with mental health and drug induced behaviours. Ensure the Government of Alberta is a active and contributing partner in collaborative discussions lead by RCC between police agencies, retailers and other important stakeholders.
* **Fiscal Responsibility and Taxes:** With projected billion-dollar surpluses, Alberta is well positioned to find the right balance to support economic growth and opportunity through low taxation and strategic investments, while meeting the needs of Albertans.RCC supports this balanced approach and believes Alberta’s tax advantage should be maintained, by not introducing additional taxes, including a provincial sales tax.

When I vote, I will be thinking about these issues.

The retail jobs and economic success must be at the heart of the May 2023 election. I invite you to support these issues as each of them have a significant impact on Alberta’s economy and its communities.

For more information, I invite you to visit [VoteRetail.ca](https://www.retailcouncil.org/election/alberta-election/), tweet your support at @RetailCouncil, or contact John Graham, Director, Government Relations (the Prairies) at jgraham@retailcouncil.org.

Sincerely,

[your name]