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March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jonathan Dever, Chairman
House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Denver and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Home Depot, and the nearly 13,000 Ohio associates, I am writing to request your support of HB 104, a bill introduced by Representative Schaffer. This issue is a simple case of equity and fairness. This legislation apply solely to transactions conducted with private label credit cards (e.g. a Home Depot card that can be used only at a Home Depot store).

Briefly, current law does allow a retailer, who owns their credit card program, to receive a refund of the sales tax remitted to the state if the consumer fails to pay down their debt. The growth of private label credit card programs has outpaced the policies governing them. As retailers continue to modernize these programs, we now employ firms with expertise in administering private label credit card programs. This practice allows The Home Depot to continue to focus on providing top-notch home improvement service to our customers.

While our practice for administering our private label credit card program have been updated, the laws governing them have not. We are now unable to obtain a refund on the bad debt because we use a third party program. This results in an unfair windfall for the state.

For the reasons noted in this letter, on behalf of The Home Depot, a member of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, I respectfully request your support of HB 104 and thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Musen
Regional Vice President
The Home Depot