

JCPenney

March 24, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Dever and members of the Committee:

On behalf of JCPenney and our Ohio stores and associates, I am writing to respectfully request your support of proposed bill HB 104. This bill will provide consistent treatment of bad debt to all retailers with private label credit cards (e.g. a JCPenney card that can be used only at a JCPenney store).

Under current law, a retailer is allowed to seek a refund of the sales tax remitted to the State if a consumer fails to pay his or her debt. The law was enacted because retailers should not be required to remit sales tax on a transaction if the retailer is never paid for the transaction but the law only applies to retailers who own their own credit card accounts.

Retailers who have private label credit cards that are owned and administered by a third party lender are not eligible for the same refund because the law did not contemplate this type of business arrangement. This bill makes a technical clarification that levels the playing field and permits all retailers with private label credit cards to obtain a refund after a consumer defaults on his or her payment.

As you know, JCPenney has had a presence in Ohio since 1918 when we opened store #182 in Mansfield. Currently, we have 46 stores and six logistics facilities in Ohio and we employ more than 5,400 associates across the state. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Arnold Grothues
Senior Counsel, Government Relations
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