



Serving Your Needs.  
Supporting Our Economy.

Ohio Association of Broadcasters  
Ohio Automobile Dealers Association  
Ohio Society of CPAs  
Ohio State Bar Association  
Ohio Trucking Association  
Ohio Association of Realtors  
Ohio Insurance Institute  
Nationwide Insurance  
Ohio Association for Justice  
AIA Ohio – a Component of the  
American Institute of Architects  
American Council of Engineering  
Companies–Ohio  
American Society of Travel Agents  
Associated General Contractors of Ohio  
Cox Automotive  
Delphi  
General Motors  
International Interior Design Association  
Motion Picture Association of America  
Ohio Association of Movers  
Ohio Cable Telecommunications  
Association  
Ohio Contractors Association  
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants  
Ohio Lobbying Association  
Ohio News Media Association  
Ohio Parking Association  
Ohio Petroleum Marketers &  
Convenience Store Association  
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association  
Outdoor Advertising Association of Ohio  
Travel Technology Association

April 28, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Smith  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Smith:

Formed in 2013, the Ohio Service Industry Coalition includes businesses, trade associations, and professional organizations in industries having a profound impact on the daily economic lives of Ohioans.

In 2016, the industries represented by Coalition members collectively had an estimated 1.1 million jobs at 77,000 establishments, with a total payroll of nearly \$46.5 billion.

We are writing to extend our sincere thanks for the leadership shown by you and your colleagues by removing the harmful sales tax rate increase and expansion to services included in HB 49, as introduced.

Our Coalition opposes raising the state sales tax rate and extending state and local sales taxes to services not already taxed under Ohio law. Higher sales tax rates and new taxes on targeted services will slow sales, hurt the state's competitiveness, and raise costs for individual and business consumers.

As our Coalition underscores its support for your removal of the executive proposals to raise the sales tax rate and apply new sales taxes to a list of services, the Coalition must object to a new provision in Substitute HB 49 that applies the sales tax to online travel agent services.

Expanding the state sales tax to fees charged by online travel agents will hurt Ohio's tourism industry. Moreover, it opens the door for the future possibility of other industries being taxed for the services they provide.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts with you, and, once again, we want to thank you and the members of the Ohio House of Representatives for your continued dedication to promoting sound tax policies in the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,

The Ohio Service Industry Coalition

cc: Speaker Rosenberger  
All Members of the Ohio House of Representatives