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November 1, 2019

The Honorable Derek Merrin, Chairman
Ohio House Ways & Means Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: *HB 135 Sales Tax Holiday Enhancements*

Dear Chairman Merrin:

I am Senior Counsel, Government Relations, for J. C Penney Corporation, Inc. JCPenney has had a strong presence in Ohio since 1918, when we opened Store #182 in Mansfield. Currently, we have 35 stores and support facilities in Ohio and we employ approximately 3,000 associates across the state.

On behalf of JCPenney and our Ohio stores and associates, I am writing to urge your support of HB 135, which would increase the dollar threshold of products qualifying for the holiday (clothes, footwear, and school supplies/materials) and would add laptops, notebooks, and tablet computers up to \$2,000.00 to the exemption list.

This legislation not only benefits consumers and retailers, it benefits the economy. In preparation for each sales tax holiday, retailers purchase newspaper, television, and radio ads. We hire additional seasonal staff and provide employees with the opportunity to work extra hours. In our experience, when customers are shopping during a sales tax holiday, they purchase additional items not subject to the sales tax exemption. They often cross state borders, make a day-long outing and stop for lunch or refreshments. Thus, the money generated by these tax holidays is an economic stimulus extending far into the community.

Adding computers and raising the per item dollar threshold would add tremendous impetus to this sales tax holiday, providing more relief to Ohio families while also boosting the state economy. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to support HB 135.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnold Grothues
Senior Counsel

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