



LAW DEPARTMENT

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November 4, 2019

**The Honorable Derek Merrin, Chairman
Ohio House of Representative Ways & Means Committee**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

It is my privilege to write as Macy's Vice President for Government and Public Affairs to express our strong support – and encourage your approval of – House Bill 135, that would make Ohio's back to school sales tax holiday better for Ohio consumers by increasing the threshold on clothing, footwear and school supplies, and adding laptops, net books and tablets.

Our company employs nearly 7000 men and women in 25 Macy's stores and 1 Bluemercury store, and corporate offices in Cincinnati, Springdale, and Mason, Ohio. We're tethered intentionally to local communities all across Ohio where our associates and customers live and work, go to school and church, and join with their neighbors to build strong communities.

Ohio's sales tax holidays have generated millions of dollars in economic value for the people of Ohio and increased sales for Ohio retailers. For example, our store in Toledo's Franklin Park Mall, already a draw for cross state shoppers, reports a 25% increase in these shoppers during the holiday. Every Ohio Macy's works to maximize this event to drive sales of goods covered by the holiday and, more importantly, goods that remain taxable. HB 135 would make a meaningful and measurable difference to Ohio's consumers and businesses.

HB 135 would make these events even more powerful for Ohio shoppers by increasing the limit on clothing and footwear to \$100 from \$75 per item, school supplies and instructional materials to \$100 from \$20 per item, and adding laptops, netbooks and tablets up to \$2,000 per item to the tax holiday. These annual events would be even more pro-consumer, pro-Main street and pro-retail employee.

In Ohio today 25% of all workers are employed directly or indirectly in the retail sector. Together they support 1.5 billion jobs and 135,477 retail establishments. The retail industry contributes \$87.5 billion annually to the Ohio economy.

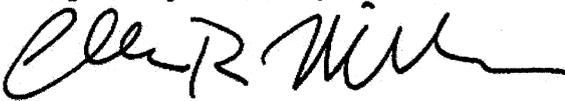
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The General Assembly's decision to make the sales tax holiday permanent was a resounding vote of confidence for Ohio consumers, retailers and workers alike. HB 135 offers an opportunity to make it even more powerful.

We urge your support for House Bill 135.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charles R. Miller
Vice President, Government and Public Affairs
Macy's
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