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February 17, 2017

The Honorable John Eklund, Chairman
Ohio Senate Ways & Means Committee
Statehouse, Rm. 143
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: *SB 9 Sales Tax Holiday*

Dear Chairman Eklund:

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 46 stores and six logistics facilities in Ohio and we employ more than 5,400 associates across the state.

On behalf of JCPenney and our Ohio stores and associates, I am writing to urge your support of SB 9, which creates a three-day sales tax holiday. 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.

You don't have to take my word for how great sales tax holidays are. I invite you to read the study released by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center detailing how Ohio's first-ever sales tax holiday was a huge success for the state. We can build on that success if you provide us the certainty that a permanent sales tax holiday would continue.

A permanent sales tax holiday in Ohio would provide relief to Ohio families while also boosting the state's economy. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to support SB 9.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnold Grothues
Senior Counsel

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