



The Honorable John Eklund
Chairman, Senate Ways & Means Committee
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund,

My name is David Redfield, Senior Vice President for Walmart's Northeast Division. On behalf of Walmart and our 50,000 associates in Ohio, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 9: extending the Back to School Sales Tax Holiday.

As we saw with the Sales Tax Holiday in 2016, the measure provides a much needed tax break to hard-working families. Walmart participates in sales tax holidays around the country and we know our customers enjoy the additional savings during these holidays. In states with Sales Tax Holidays, we see a significant increase in customer traffic and sales during the Back to School Season.

Sales Tax Holidays are good for customers, the state, and all retailers, large and small. According to the University of Cincinnati Economics Center, the 2015 event saved taxpayers \$3.3 million while generating a net increase to the state of \$4.7 million and we expect the 2016 event will show a similar economic impact. Sales Tax Holidays clearly spur incremental sales which in turn create revenue growth for state and local governments.

Walmart is excited about the possibility of extending the Sales Tax Holiday in Ohio and our hope is the state will eventually make it permanent. We encourage you and your fellow committee members to support Senate Bill 9.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Redfield", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Redfield
Walmart
SVP, Northeast Division



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