



**The Home Depot**  
**2455 Paces Ferry Rd, Atlanta, GA 30339**  
**February 3, 2017**

**Senator John Eklund, Chairman**  
**Ways and Means Committee**  
**1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**Columbus, OH 43215**

Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the nearly 13,100 dedicated associates at 74 locations in Ohio, I write today in support of SB 65 today -- proposed legislation exempting purchases of ENERGY STAR qualified products from sales and use taxes. The Home Depot would like to thank the Ways and Means Committee for holding this hearing and including this letter of support for the record.

The Home Depot strongly supports legislation that will enable our customers to upgrade their appliances to more energy efficient and money saving models. Drawing on our experience as the nation's largest home improvement retailer, ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holidays are a great way to encourage consumers to start this process. In 2016, five other states had successful sales tax holidays on ENERGY STAR products and The Home Depot recommends Ohio be added to that list.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, in 2016 Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR appliances, saved over \$700 million dollars on energy costs. The Home Depot is dedicated to helping our customers save even more next year by offering over 20,000 ENERGY STAR certified products in-store and online.

Whether it is using 70-90% less energy by installing an ENERGY STAR light bulb or saving hundreds of dollars over the life of an ENERGY STAR refrigerator, The Home Depot works to educate our customers on the environmental and financial benefits of energy efficiency. Through our partnership with ENERGY STAR, The Home Depot continues to develop new opportunities for education and promotion of energy-efficient products. A Sales Tax Holiday provides consumers the incentive to take a vital step towards energy efficiency and making our communities a better place for generations to come.

The Home Depot operates as a value based business and we are proud to help our customers do the right thing by promoting energy efficiency. Thank you for the chance to submit this letter of support and we ask the members of the committee to support SB 65.

Sincerely,

Brian Gamberini  
Manager, State Government Relations, The Home Depot