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The Honorable John Eklund,  
Chairman of the Ohio Senate Ways & Means Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

It is my privilege to write as Macy's Group Vice President for Government and Public Affairs to express our strong support – and encourage your approval of – Senate Bill 226, which would make Ohio's annual back to school sales tax holiday permanent.

Our company employs nearly 7,000 men and women in 27 Macy's stores and 1 Bluemercuy 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 in building strong communities.

Studies by the University of Cincinnati confirm what Macy's associates and customers know first-hand: Ohio's 3-year experiment with sales tax holidays has been a resounding success. The holidays have generated millions of dollars in economic value for the people of Ohio. Macy's stores, especially those located near state borders, have experienced increased sales because of the holidays. These annual events have been 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.

The General Assembly's approval of three successive sales tax holidays marked a resounding vote of confidence for Ohio retailers and workers. Now is the time to make this support permanent and ensure that future generations of Ohioans will benefit as well.

We urge your support for Senate Bill 226.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles R. Miller  
Group Vice President,  
Government and Public Affairs