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November 4, 2019

The Honorable Derek Merrin, Chair
Ohio House Ways and Means Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Merrin,

On behalf of the Ohio Telecom Association, (OTA) I am writing in support of House Bill 135, legislation to enhance Ohio's back to school sales tax holiday by increasing the dollar threshold on laptops, notebooks and tablets up to \$2000 per item to the exemption list. This new addition to the exemption list will help Ohio families as they gear up for another school year. Previous tax holidays have been successful, and this provision will keep Ohio competitive with other states who have adopted similar measures.

As we all know, more and more students across Ohio are learning with state-of-the art laptops notebooks and tablets. By helping to lower the cost of these devices more students will be able to take advantage of the latest technology.

This new element adds a significant savings to Ohio families. House Bill 135 will give Ohio students a much-needed boost during the back to school season.

The OTA represents Ohio's incumbent local exchange carriers. Our companies range from serving a few hundred customers to millions of households across Ohio. The OTA also represents two wireless carriers and more than 100 associate members who provide goods and services to the telecommunications industry. Our member companies contribute more than \$4 billion annually to the state's economy and employ more than 15,000 Ohioans. For nearly a decade, OTA companies have invested more than \$1 billion in Ohio's telecom network infrastructure each year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles R. Moses".

Charles R. Moses
President