



LAW DEPARTMENT

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April 20, 2021

**The Honorable Derek Merrin, Chairman
Ohio House Ways & Means Committee**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

It is my privilege to write as Macy's Vice President for Government and Public Affairs to express our strong support – and encourage your approval of – House Bill 223, that would correct an inequity in Ohio's tax laws and provide a mechanism for overpaid sales tax to be returned to the retailer that remitted the tax.

Our company employs nearly 7000 men and women in 25 Macy's stores and 1 Bluemercury 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 to build strong communities.

Legal counsel for the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants has provided a very good summary of how the bill works and the inequity it seeks to correct. As one of Ohio's oldest retailers with a private label credit card, we know these programs and the incredible boost they give not only to retailers but to our customers as well. We know this inequity in the Ohio tax laws costs our company hundreds of thousands of dollars annually – dollars that we could be investing through our business in our customers, colleagues and communities.

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 decision to correct this inequity will be a resounding vote of confidence for Ohio consumers, retailers and workers alike. We urge your support for House Bill 223.

Respectfully submitted,

**Charles R. Miller
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