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The Honorable Derrick Merrin, Chairman
Ohio House Ways & Means Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 223

Dear Chairman Merrin and members of the House Ways & Means Committee,

On behalf of Synchrony Financial, I am writing to encourage you to support House Bill 223. Synchrony Financial (SYF) is one of the nation's premier consumer financial services companies. With 2.6 million active cardholders and more than 2,500 employees in Ohio, we are one of the largest providers of private label credit cards in the United States on purchase volume and receivables.

Under current law, a retailer that makes a sale to consumers through a store credit card, known as a private label credit card (PLCC), is entitled to a deduction or refund of sales tax remitted to the state of Ohio in instances where the retailer is unable to collect the amounts due from the consumer and writes off the sale as a bad debt. The existing law does not allow retailers who use a third party to administer their PLCC program to take the deduction or refund.

House Bill 223 would eliminate this arbitrary distinction between those who administer their own PLCC programs and those who use a third party to manage that activity on their behalf. The bill clarifies that this sales tax deduction or refund in the event of a consumer default is available to retailers regardless of their credit programs.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you support House Bill 223. Thank you for considering Synchrony's position on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jim Nikolai
Vice President – State Government Affairs

