



March 15, 2022

The Honorable Steve Wilson
Chairman, Senate Financial Institutions & Technology Committee
134th General Assembly

Dear Chairman Wilson:

On behalf of well over 50,000 Associates in Ohio, I am once again writing you to emphasize our complete support of the Inform Act – House Bill 272. We firmly believe that increasing transparency and accountability for online marketplaces while protecting Ohio consumers from bad actors is critical. The increased number of counterfeit goods and stolen property sold via online marketplace platforms is troubling for all consumers in Ohio.

As both a brick-and-mortar retailer and an online marketplace operator, we continue to believe that seller disclosure and verification requirements within this legislation are best practices for all marketplaces. These steps are essential to empower both consumers and law enforcement officials to reduce fraudulent sales.

Federal and state laws are already in place and enforced against brick-and-mortar retailers who sell fraudulent items in a physical retail environment. This legislation addresses the problem of insufficient transparency and accountability that is specific to online marketplaces that do not adhere to best practices of seller disclosure and verification.

As I mentioned, Walmart is proud to employ 56,564 associates in Ohio across 172 retail locations. We are also proud that the \$6.3 billion we spent with over 1,500 local suppliers this last fiscal year has supported an additional 125,277 Ohio jobs. Maintaining the trust and confidence of our online customers is essential to our business – we continue to believe all online marketplaces should do the same.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this practical legislative solution that will help reduce the sale of stolen and pirated items on online marketplaces and protect Ohio consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenda Fleming Willis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenda Fleming Willis
Senior Vice President, North Division