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December 2, 2022

The Honorable Louis W. Blessing, Chairman
Senate Ways & Means Committee
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Blessing and members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

On behalf of The Home Depot, and the nearly 13,000 Ohio associates, I am writing to request your support of HB 223. This issue is a simple case of equity and fairness. This legislation applies solely to transactions conducted with private label credit cards (e.g. a Home Depot card that can be used only at a Home Depot store).

Current law does allow a retailer, who owns their credit card program, to receive a refund of the sales tax remitted to the state if the consumer fails to pay down their debt. The growth of private label credit card programs has outpaced the policies governing them. As retailers continue to modernize these programs, we now employ firms with expertise in administering private label credit card programs. This practice allows The Home Depot to continue to focus on providing top-notch home improvement service to our customers.

While our practice for administering our private label credit card program have been updated, the laws governing them have not. We are now unable to obtain a refund on the bad debt because we use a third party program. This results in an unfair windfall for the state.

For the reasons noted in this letter, on behalf of The Home Depot, a member of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, I respectfully request your support of HB 223 and thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared E. Holt". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jared E. Holt
Manager, State & Local Government Relations
The Home Depot