



Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-4538 Office
Antani@ohiosenate.gov

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Niraj Antani

State Senator
6th District

SB 222 Sponsor Testimony Senate Ways and Means Committee March 1, 2022

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 222, which would create a three-day sales tax "holiday" on the first Friday through Sunday of March during which sales of qualifying ENERGY STAR products are exempt from sales and use taxes.

Under SB 222, a "qualifying ENERGY STAR product" is any device that carries the ENERGY STAR label indicating that the device meets the energy efficiency criteria of the ENERGY STAR program established by the United States Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. This includes appliances such as washers, dryers, dish washers, freezers and refrigerators.

This bill will provide tax relief to Ohioans. These appliances tend to be larger ticket items that an average citizen purchases. Therefore, giving them the option to purchase an appliance tax free will provide them with tax relief. This is a tax cut for middle class families. Many people delay purchasing new appliances because of the price. This bill will give them the opportunity to buy the appliances they need. In addition, this bill will give a boost to retailers and manufacturers of these appliances in Ohio and support all of the jobs involved in the retail and manufacturing of these appliances. The back to school tax holiday on clothing items and school supplies has become very popular among our citizens. I believe this will become popular as well.

Ohio can join Texas, Maryland, Missouri and Virginia in having an energy saving holiday.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 222. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.