



From: Micah Derry <mderry@afphq.org>
Date: April 26, 2017 at 10:00:09 AM EDT
To: Micah Derry <mderry@afphq.org>
Cc: Ezra Escudero <eescudero@afphq.org>, Kevin Curtis <kcurtis@afphq.org>
Subject: Key Budget Item - Oppose New Taxes on Online Travel Agenc

Dear Representative,

On behalf of tens of thousands of Americans for Prosperity activists in Ohio, I am writing in strong opposition to the sales tax provision relating to hotel intermediaries in Sub-House Bill 49, which would institute a new tax on Online Travel Agents (OTA). The new tax would impact OTAs which drive millions of travelers to Ohio each year. This tax, if imposed, would place Ohio at a competitive disadvantage with other states without it, and have a negative impact on our economy.

Higher cost travel means fewer tourists, fewer business travelers and fewer visitors to local attractions, restaurants and nightlife destinations -- hurting local businesses and their employees at a time they can least afford it.

The sole justification for this amendment is predicated on a misconception. There is no loophole in the tax code. The amendment extends sales tax to a service that is already taxed in other forms. In essence, Sub HB 49 double-taxes OTAs.

Implementing new taxes on services are misaligned incentive for attracting visitors to Ohio.

We hope you will join us in opposing this misguided double-taxing policy and look forward to working with you on finalizing the state budget.

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Best Regards,

Micah Derry
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