



September 26, 2023

The Honorable Bill Blessing
Chairman, Senate Ways & Means Committee
1 Cap. Square – Ohio Senate Building
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Blessing:


On behalf of Ohio Chamber members, I am submitting this letter of support for House Bill 66.

HB 66 would permit a bad debt refund for cigarette, other tobacco products (OTP) or vapor products excise taxes paid by a wholesaler but remain unpaid by the purchaser of the products and is then written off by the wholesaler as uncollectible or worthless. Much like the bad debt allowance for sales tax on general goods and services, the wholesaler will be required to repay the refund if tax is later paid by the purchaser to the wholesaler.

The bill outlines criteria for a wholesaler to follow to qualify for the refund and the legislation also allows the wholesaler and the Tax Commissioner to apply the credit against the wholesaler's future cigarette, OTP, or vapor products tax liability. This process is clear and gives the parties involved flexibility in determining the best method of carrying out the bad debt program.

Finally, HB 66 is modeled after laws in other state including a couple of our neighbor states. This continuity in law is good for commerce and businesses that operate as wholesalers in multiple states. We urge passage of HB 66.

Sincerely,


Tony Long
General Counsel