

BILL JOHNSON

6TH DISTRICT, OHIO

WASHINGTON OFFICE

1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-5705



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Tim Schaffer
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

February 24, 2014

Dear Senator Schaffer,

I write today in strong support of Senate Bill 243, legislation introduced by Senator Kevin Bacon that would create a three day sales tax holiday for back to school purchases. It is my understanding that your committee will be considering this legislation for a vote as soon as tomorrow and I urge you, and all of your colleagues to support this legislation as it will increase economic activity in the State while maintaining necessary revenue to the State and local governments.

Before I was elected to Congress, I led a coalition that first advocated for this legislation back in 2009. I did so because I lived near the border of Pennsylvania, and at the start of every school year I noticed that my neighbors would head across state lines and spend their money for school clothes and supplies in Pennsylvania. The State of Ohio, and especially the counties along the border, were losing tax revenue because of better sales and more options in Pennsylvania.

This legislation has been vetted by the independent University of Cincinnati Economics Center to show that it would inject \$78 million back into Ohioans' pocket books and our economy. As elected officials who believe that our constituents are already over taxed, we know that this will allow Ohioans to spend that money to buy more goods and services spurring economic growth. As you also know, there are some in local and county government that worry that this legislation will lead to a decrease in tax revenue; thus putting a burden on local and county governments that already cash strapped. While we can certainly understand their concerns, the University of Cincinnati report also found that there would not be a significant change in tax revenue because those consumers will spend their extra money on goods not covered by this legislation.

MARIETTA OFFICE

246 Front Street
Marietta, OH 45750

(740) 376-0868

SALEM OFFICE

192 East State Street
Salem, OH 44460

(330) 337-6951

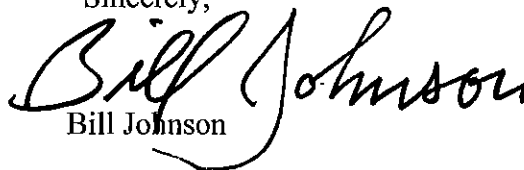
IRONTON OFFICE

202 Park Avenue
Suite C
Ironton, OH 45639

(740) 534-9431

This legislation is a win-win-win for Ohio consumers, retailers, and county governments. I appreciate your leadership and willingness to consider this important legislation in your Committee, and I again urge you and your colleagues to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J".

Bill Johnson

Cc: Senator Kevin Bacon
Members of Ohio Senate Ways & Means Committee