




Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator LeAnna M. Washington

4th Senatorial District

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 14, 2010
To: All Senators
From: Senator LeAnna M. Washington 
Subject: Co-sponsorship request – **Limits on Retail Re-stocking Fees**

I will introduce legislation limiting the amount of "re-stocking fees" that retail stores may charge on returned items. Certain retailers are now charging their customers a 10 or 15 percent "re-stocking fee" when merchandise is returned in an opened box. Other retailers are charging a "re-stocking fee" even when the item is returned unopened or unused. Re-stocking fees are imposed uniformly as a percentage of the purchase price and without regard to the actual costs of "re-stocking" the merchandise. Re-stocking fees are costing consumers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania millions of dollars each year.

Retailers are well aware that with the retail business, the possibility that items will be returned for various reasons, is the regular cost of doing business. This legislation will limit the amount stores can charge for re-stocking fees to 5 percent, up to a \$50 maximum.

To indicate your interest in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Cindie Watkins in my office by calling 7-1427 or emailing cwatkins@pasenate.com.