**Sample Letter to a Member of Congress**

America’s retailers need your support to close the online sales tax loophole and bring long-overdue fairness to community businesses. In order for there to be real and fair competition that reflects 21st century retail, Congress must act.

An outdated sales tax structure favors online retailers over brick-and-mortar sellers because online-only retailers do not charge and collect sales tax. This often results in online-only sellers being able to offer products at a considerable price advantage. However, the sales tax (in all but 5 states) is still owed. When sales taxes are not collected at the time of purchase, by law the burden then falls on the consumer to report and remit. Compliance under this scenario is next to nothing. Today’s widely available and inexpensive technology can change all that by offering online retailers the ability to easily charge and collect on purchases just like thousands of brick-and-mortar stores already do.

If Congress fails to enact e-fairness legislation and the status quo prevails, the tax base for states will further erode causing an unnecessarily higher tax burden on everyone else in the state, especially those paying income and property taxes. This puts local businesses at a further disadvantage. It is time for Congress to grant states the ability to correct the lopsided application of sales and use tax laws and avoid an increase in taxes on in-state consumers and businesses.

Last year, the Senate overwhelmingly passed the Marketplace Fairness Act with bipartisan support to help level the playing field for brick-and-mortar retailers, while restoring the states' right to establish and enforce collection of their own sales taxes.

I am calling on you to do the right thing for our communities and local businesses by passing legislation that gives all retailers a fair chance to compete and thrive in today's marketplace. I respectfully request the U.S. House of Representatives enact legislation that ends the competitive disparity this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,