

JAY INSLEE
Governor



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Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

I write to urge your support for swift passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act to create a level playing field for Washington's small business retailers. This legislation will empower our state and local governments to treat all businesses equally and to collect the appropriate revenue under our tax laws.

Never before has the need been greater for legislation to grant states and local governments the authority to collect sales taxes on remote sales. The continued disparity between online retailers and brick-and-mortar shops is hurting small businesses and undermining state and local government budgets and the services they provide to the people of our state. By passing the Marketplace Fairness Act, Congress can set 21st century rules for all retailers.

The Marketplace Fairness Act is a well-developed policy proposal with bipartisan support across our state and the country. This bill is supported by businesses, associations and chambers of commerce throughout Washington State, and is a top priority for Democratic and Republican governors as well as the National Governors Association. Despite the protestations of some non-sales tax states and anti-revenue purists, this bill is not a new tax. Nor is it a tax on the internet or on business. It is simply a means of collecting taxes owed on the sale of goods and services over the internet. If a company is doing business — selling goods and soliciting customers in a state — that company should have to play by that state's rules. If a state has a sales tax, then everyone selling goods in that state should have to collect and remit that tax.

This standard is not only fair, it promotes competition, which is good for consumers; simplifies taxes, which helps businesses; and assists with tax collection, which strengthens states' budgets. And according to the Congressional Budget Office, the Marketplace Fairness Act would have zero effect on the federal budget.

Several members of the Washington State congressional delegation have already cosponsored the Marketplace Fairness Act in the 113th Congress. And I appreciate the support that both of Washington's senators have shown in past votes to proceed with consideration of the bill. The Senate will vote on final passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act, in the form of S. 743, as early as May 6, after which the bill should move to the House. On behalf of businesses, communities and taxpayers across the state of Washington, I encourage all members of our delegation to support the quick passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

