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June 15, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Womack  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Suzan DelBene  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Stivers  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Peter Welch  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Representatives Chaffetz, Conyers, Womack, DelBene, Noem, Speier, Stivers and Welch;

On behalf of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) and the thousands of other Main Street retailers throughout the country, I am writing today to offer our strong support of the Remote Transaction Parity Act of 2015 (RTPA). This legislation levels the playing field for Main Street brick-and-mortar businesses by closing a loophole that puts them at a competitive disadvantage to online retail merchants. RILA and our membership are grateful for your leadership on this important issue and we are committed to helping make this legislation law this year.

By way of background, RILA is the trade association of the world's largest and most innovative retail companies. RILA promotes consumer choice and economic freedom through public policy and industry operational excellence. Its members include more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs and operate more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad.

Because of a decades-old loophole that pre-dates the Internet, online-only companies can achieve as much as a 10-percent price advantage over brick-and-mortar retailers by not collecting state sales taxes. This special treatment means government is picking winners and losers in the marketplace with the end result being local businesses simply cannot compete over the long term with online giants that enjoy a government-sanctioned competitive advantage.

This loophole is costing jobs on Main Street while shortchanging state budgets by an estimated \$23 billion in uncollected state sales taxes annually, a figure that will only increase as Internet commerce continues to grow. Few Americans know that their state requires them to pay the sales tax on purchases made online if the vendor does not collect it at the point of sale, leaving consumers vulnerable to penalties, interest and increased scrutiny from state auditors. If enacted, the Remote Transaction Parity

Act would remove this burden from your constituents and in the process empower states to address their budget deficits without having to raise taxes – all without any cost to the federal government.

The strong small business protections such as the audit protections that exist in the Remote Transaction Parity Act will allow businesses we represent to comply with the law without having to deal with overly burdensome state regulations.

In closing, we endorse the Remote Transaction Parity Act of 2015 to eliminate this antiquated loophole and feel it is essential to preserving Main Street businesses and the jobs they provide.

We thank you for your leadership in helping to create consensus and a legislative product that has enthusiastic support by the majority of stakeholders. We look forward to working with you to see the Remote Transaction Parity Act of 2015 through to completion this year.

Sincerely,



Sandy Kennedy, President  
Retail Industry Leaders Association

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**RILA**  
RETAIL INDUSTRY LEADERS ASSOCIATION  
Educate. Collaborate. Advocate.

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