



June 18, 2013

The Honorable Thomas Massie
United States House of Representatives
314 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Massie:

On behalf of the retail industry in Kentucky, the Kentucky Retail Federation strongly disagrees with your opposition to the Marketplace Fairness Act as well as the assertions made during the June 18, 2013 press conference on the issue.

You have consistently cited a desire not to impede the development of e-commerce. We also support that stance, after all many Kentucky retailers already sell goods online and appreciate the opportunity to reach consumers in another venue. However, retailers across your district and our Commonwealth are rightly angry that you support expanding one segment of the retail economy at the direct expense of the men and women who actually operate in Kentucky as part of an industry that provides one in four Kentucky jobs. After all, government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers.

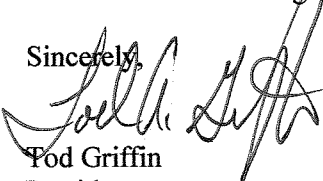
For more than a decade, out-of-state retailers have been using Kentucky retailers as their showrooms. They have done so without creating Kentucky jobs, spending money in our economy or contributing to our communities. These are the businesses you support with your stance on Marketplace Fairness. Today you described this as the "Offshore Retail Act." We have to agree, because until it passes, more and more Kentucky retail jobs will be sent "offshore."

Let's be clear, this is not a new tax and it is not unfairly cumbersome. It is, however, an opportunity to close a loophole that allows out-of-state retailers to enjoy a six to 10 percent competitive advantage over local businesses. A tax is already due on each sale made in Kentucky, whether it is made from a smartphone in Vanceburg or a store in LaGrange. All Kentucky retailers and many out-of-state retailers are already remitting the sales tax. As you know, the Marketplace Fairness Act has several provisions built into it to require states to simplify their collection process, including a requirement that states provide the necessary software at no cost to the retailer.

Congressman Massie, it is time to close that loophole. It is time to stand with Kentucky retailers. By continuing to oppose the Marketplace Fairness Act you are sending a message to Kentucky retailers that you do not support them and do not value the contributions they make.

I sincerely hope you will reevaluate your position. I may be reached at (502) 875-1444 if you would like to discuss this issue at greater length.

Sincerely,


Todd Griffin
President

512 Capitol Avenue - Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
www.kyretail.com - info@kyretail.com
(502) 875-1444 phone - (502) 875-1595 fax