



June 5, 2013

To All Members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus:

We are writing you today as fellow sportsmen and women—owners of your local gun stores and hunting and fishing outfitters. Small-business owners like us have helped you, your friends, and your families equip for your hunts, trips, and expeditions, and we are proud of the services we provide. **Now, in the face of unfair competition online, we need your help.**

Recently, the U.S. Senate passed the Marketplace Fairness Act by a wide margin—69 to 27. This was a rare show of bipartisan support for an issue in a sharply divided Congress. **We strongly urge you and your colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to follow suit and pass this commonsense bill as soon as possible.**

The Marketplace Fairness Act's goal is to level the playing field in the retail marketplace by requiring online merchants to collect state and local sales taxes on purchases made at their stores—just like we have to do. Under the current system, an outdated legal loophole allows online retailers to forgo collecting these taxes. The result is that online stores appear to have lower prices because sales taxes are not included in final prices.

Brick-and-mortar stores like our gun shops are suffering from this unfair, government-sanctioned pricing advantage for our online competitors. Stores are shrinking, cutting workers, and even closing their doors as a result.

Without action, you will soon have to search far and wide to find a locally-owned gun store at which you can develop a lasting relationship with the owner, handle firearms and other equipment with a trained expert, and support hunting and fishing in your community.

The most vociferous criticism of the Marketplace Fairness Act has come from outside interest groups claiming to represent conservative values. Many of us consider ourselves conservative, and we frankly believe that the objections raised by these outside groups are not valid.

Critics of the bill claim that the Marketplace Fairness Act represents a new tax or a tax increase. This is simply not the case. All the Marketplace Fairness Act would do is give states the power to collect sales taxes online that are already due (but people don't pay).

Critics also claim that the law will be burdensome for small businesses. This is a legitimate concern—one that is dealt with by the bill, at the insistence of the conservatives who helped craft it. The bill's protections for small businesses include a uniform tax base, liability protection, tax administration simplification, and a significant small-seller exception.

The government shouldn't be picking winners and losers in the marketplace, and America's small businesses cannot wait another year for tax parity.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject the unfounded and misguided criticisms of the bill and pass this legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Katy Peterson, Flagstaff Used Sports Exchange, Flagstaff, Arizona
Steve Miller, Bear Creek Supply, Waterford, California
Steve Goolsby, Smalley's Wholesale Fishing & Shooting Supplies, Oakdale, California
Mike Wilson, Moonpie's Sporting Goods, Gainesville, Georgia
John Lipscomb, Foxhole Sporting Goods, Gainesville, Georgia
Marrill Getche, Getmor Guns, Montezuma, Indiana
Mike Massey, Massey's Professional Outfitters, New Orleans, Louisiana
Richard Lipsey, Lipsey's, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Bo Brines, Little Forks Outfitters, Midland, Michigan
Brian Pitser, The Northern Angler, Traverse City, Michigan
Ken Neeley, KD Outdoors, Waterford, Michigan
Tony Marble, Edina Farm and Home, Edina, Missouri
Jim Hamilton, Jim's Gun Shop, Raleigh, North Carolina
Ruth Anderson, Delmont Sports Shop, Delmont, Pennsylvania
Daniel Fulmer, Fulmer's Sporting Goods, Wysox, Pennsylvania
Marty Friedman, First American Ordinance, Scranton, Pennsylvania
Christopher Scoda, Advanced Arms LLC, Pittston, Pennsylvania
Gerald L. McCall, Arrowhead Gun Shop, Kerrville, Texas
Melonie Metz, Texas Guns, San Antonio, Texas
John Dury, Dury's Gun Shop, San Antonio, Texas
Stacy Lynn, Sportsman's Finest, Austin, Texas
Darrell Hester, Victoria All Sports, Victoria, Texas
J. Earl and Charlene Bridge, Bridges Rifle Company & Gunsmithing, La Vernia, Texas
State Senator Terry Moulton, Mouldy's Archery & Tackle, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin