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America's Business Community Demands Action On E-Fairness This Year

New Letter to Speaker Boehner Highlights Years Of Inaction By The House, Despite Strong Bipartisan Senate Support

WASHINGTON D.C. – Citing more than 30 separate Congressional hearings over a 20-year period while the issue of e-fairness has been sitting before Congress, over 200 national and state trade associations and 400 American companies sent a letter today to House Speaker John Boehner calling on the House to finally act <u>this year</u>. The groups behind the letter today collectively represent thousands of American businesses and millions of American workers.

Read The Full Letter Here

The letter from the Marketplace Fairness Coalition comes just 36 hours after the Speaker's office told RollCall newspaper that the House needed more time to "examine the measure." It also comes more than 18 months after the Senate overwhelmingly passed e-fairness legislation with the strong support of both Republicans and Democrats, alike.

The Coalition writes, "The rapid growth of e-commerce should benefit all sellers. The status quo, however, affords special treatment to "remote sellers", thereby distorting the marketplace and hindering the ability of many local brick-and-mortar businesses to compete. As you know, in every state with a sales tax, including Ohio, locally-based merchants have to collect sales taxes on the first dollar of sales."

Notably, Speaker Boehner's home State of Ohio is also one of several states that have already passed legislation that would implement a tax cut for families if/when Congress finally passes e-fairness. And in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the home of House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte, residents are facing a massive hike in gas taxes because of a 2013 transportation bill that was passed with the expectation that Congress would act to close this onerous government loophole.

"Locally-based retailers and wholesaler-distributors and their employees across the country expect Congress to make 2014 the last year in which Main Street businesses are burdened with a government-sanctioned price disadvantage, compared to their online competitors. The time to level the playing field has come," the Coalition letter said today.

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The Marketplace Fairness Coalition is comprised of businesses of every size, sector, and channel of product distribution, located in every state throughout the country.