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Contact: Ron Bonjean/Brian Walsh  
(202) 349-1402

## **Time for Congress To Level The Playing Field, Protect Local Jobs**

*Job Creators Across The Country Speak Out In Support Of Marketplace Fairness*

**WASHINGTON D.C.** – The Marketplace Fairness Coalition, which represents thousands of American businesses -- large and small, as well as both brick-and-mortar and online -- released the following statement regarding today's hearing by the House Judiciary Committee:

"America's brick-and-mortar businesses appreciate the hard work and serious examination that has been given to this issue, but the time for Congress to act on marketplace fairness is now.

"Small businesses and local jobs across the country are being put at risk for the simple reason that the federal government gives a government-sponsored tax advantage to one group of businesses over another. And behind all the smoke-and-mirrors that have been put forward by opponents of marketplace fairness, their opposition lies in protecting that unfair tax advantage.

"Under our free market system, all businesses should be forced to compete on the same level playing field, and Washington D.C. shouldn't be in the business of picking the winners and the losers.

"Congress has now held over 30 hearings going back 20 years on this one issue. It's time for the House to follow the Senate's lead, and finally pass this long overdue effort to level the playing field and restore state's rights."

### **Background**

- Earlier this week, over 1,000 small business owners from across the country sent a letter to Chairman Goodlatte calling on him to help pass marketplace fairness this year. A copy of the letter is available here - <http://www.marketplacefairnessnow.org/resources.html>
- In a [Politico op-ed](#) also this week, renowned economist Dr. Arthur Laffer reiterated his call for Congress to level the playing field and give states the ability to lower tax rates. Laffer released an extensive new study last year -- "[Pro-Growth Tax Reform and E-Fairness](#)" – outlining how the collection of online sales taxes that are already legally owed and leveling the playing field for all retailers, while using additional revenues wisely, would have a profoundly positive economic impact in states across the country.

- [Click here](#) to read what some of the nation's top conservative leaders and Republican Governors have said in support of marketplace fairness.
- [Click here](#) to read what dozens of the nation's leading editorial boards have written in support of marketplace fairness.
- Finally, exactly how easy is to implement sales tax software? Watch this brief three-minute video explaining how it's done - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-x2tuKbd-Y&feature=youtu.be>

### **Quotes From Small Business Owners In Support Of Marketplace Fairness**

- “My bookstore is located in Midtown, a retail district in the heart of Reno, and I see other small businesses around me struggle to compete with online retailers who are not required to collect sales taxes. Business districts are the lifeblood of local communities across the United States, so it is imperative that these retailers be placed on equal footing with remote sellers. Our goods should not appear to cost more, when in fact the sales tax collected goes to support our community and our local infrastructure.” -- **Christine E. Kelly, Owner of Sundance Books and Music, Reno, NV**
- “The overhead we endure takes away our opportunities to compete on a level playing field. The overhead that internet/online retailers encounter is miniscule if non-existent. (We) You need to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act to give all retailers, especially small business, a better chance to survive.” -- **Richard C. Wickemeier, owner of Cliff Hardware & Paint Supply, Cincinnati, OH**
- “We need to get this problem solved or it will be too late for countless businesses that will be forced to close their doors for good. So our message is: Let's get this done now.” -- **Connie Gilbert of Gilbert Jewelers in Webster City, IA**

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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.*