



June 16, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress  
2236 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Chaffetz,

On behalf of the American Supply Association (ASA), the national trade association serving wholesaler-distributors and manufacturers in the plumbing-heating-cooling-piping (PHCP) and industrial pipe-valve-fitting (PVF) industries, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Remote Transactions Parity Act, H.R. 2775.

The PHCP and PVF channel encompasses over 3,600 corporations with 5,000 outlets and 100,000 employees nationwide, many businesses which have passed from one generation to the next. Locally-based, independent wholesaler-distributors and their employees across the country appreciate your efforts to make 2015 the last year in which small businesses are burdened with a government-sanctioned price disadvantage, compared to our online competitors.

The growth of e-commerce should benefit all sellers. The status quo, however, affords special treatment to “remote sellers”, distorting the marketplace and impeding the ability of local brick-and-mortar businesses to compete. As you know, in every state with a sales tax, brick-and-mortar sellers like our members have to collect sales taxes on the first dollar of sales.

American businesses are in great position to meet consumer demand, regardless of the channel used for purchasing merchandise. But taxes should be applied equally to those purchases, regardless of the channel through which the consumer makes that purchase. Today’s marketplace needs a modern sales tax collection system; we believe RTPA helps accomplish this. Your legislation would balance economic parity with compliance and enforcement simplification, including free software. As well, we support efforts to provide robust audit and liability protection. It is time to level the playing field for *all* merchants. Congress should no longer be in the business of picking winners and losers in the marketplace.

The American Supply Association thanks you for championing this critical issue and we are eager to work with you to pass e-fairness legislation that will provide parity and meaningful simplifications for all sellers. We stand ready to work with you to achieve passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hilton', is positioned above the typed name.

Daniel Hilton  
Director of Government Affairs  
American Supply Association