

July 15, 2015

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

Dear Congressman Chaffetz,

On behalf of the 281 cities in Washington State, the Association of Washington Cities thanks you for your support and leadership in sponsoring the Remote Transactions Parity Act (H.R. 2775). This bill will modernize our nation's outdated sales tax collection process, which is one of our most important federal legislative priorities.

As you know, the Remote Transactions Parity Act does not impose a new tax, but instead levels the playing field between brick-and-mortar stores, who are required to collect sales tax, and online retailers, who are not. Sales taxes are owed on all purchases, and it is unfair for online retailers to skip collecting taxes, while the stores in our communities collect all owed taxes.

Governments in Washington State are very dependent on sales tax to provide basic services, and every year, our state loses more than half a billion dollars in sales taxes from the online sales tax loophole. This legislation will give our state and local governments additional resources to invest in communities, build infrastructure, and provide important services like public safety.

Again, thank you for your co-sponsorship and hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,



Paul Roberts  
President, Association of Washington Cities  
Councilmember, City of Everett