

Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Inc.

June 15, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kristi Noem
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Original Sponsors of the Remote Transactions Parity Act:

On behalf of the 24 member states of the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board (SSTGB), we would like to thank you for your leadership and commitment to the Remote Transactions Parity Act of 2015 (RTPA). We applaud you for introducing the RTPA today and strongly support this bipartisan legislation that creates a level playing field for all consumers and sellers, while at the same time, protects state sovereignty.

Since 1999, the SSTGB has worked with members of the business community, state legislators, tax administrators, local government officials, tax accountants, and attorneys to simplify and modernize the sales and use tax systems throughout the country to help make the collection of these taxes as simple and burden-free as possible, while at the same time protecting state sovereignty. This effort has resulted in a system of simplification and uniformity such that over 2,500 sellers have already *voluntarily* registered and agreed to collect the appropriate sales and use taxes in all of our member states – regardless of physical presence in the state. In addition, due to advancements in technology and because our member states have made the collection of sales and use taxes simpler and less burdensome, nearly 75% of these sellers are handling all of the tax calculation, collection, filing of returns and remittances on their own. The remaining sellers are using the software and services that are provided at no charge to handle collecting and remitting the sales and use taxes in those states where they currently have no legal requirement to do so.

The Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board strongly supports the RTPA. The legislation is a carefully crafted and well balanced bill that updates current federal law to reflect the modern e-commerce marketplace. State tax laws should not discriminate between similar businesses based on how their products are sold and distributed. The RTPA would eliminate this discrimination by

removing the constitutional limitation on a state's authority to require collection of sales taxes by remote sellers – but only for those states that simplify their sales and use tax systems and agree to provide the necessary software and services to facilitate this collection responsibility. It is time for the federal government to allow states to enforce their laws and promote sound policy that will allow all consumers and sellers to thrive in the 21st Century marketplace.

We are grateful for your dedication, hard work, and strong leadership that was required to create this important legislation. We look forward to continue working with you and your congressional colleagues to ensure the Remote Transactions Parity Act is enacted into public law this year.



Craig Johnson, Executive Director
Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Inc.



Deb Peters, President
Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Inc.