



July 25, 2017

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Marino
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Cicilline
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte, Ranking Member Conyers, Chairman Marino and Ranking Member Cicilline;

I am writing to express the concerns of the National Retail Federation (NRF) with H.R. 2887, the “No Regulation without Representation Act,” which is the subject of a July 25 hearing in the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law. The National Retail Federation (NRF) is the world’s largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries.

For years, NRF has been asking the House Judiciary Committee to consider legislation that would level the playing field between tax collections of brick and mortar sales and online sales. As online sales become a larger percentage of total retail sales, it is imperative that policymakers recognize that sales taxes are imposed on the items that are purchased and government should not favor remote sales over sales made in a brick and mortar store. We believe that H.R. 2887 goes in the opposite direction of fairness by codifying a requirement that a seller must have a physical presence in a state to collect sales tax owed on the sale that seller made into the state. If state governments are going to require that retailers collect and remit sales taxes on behalf of their customers located in that state, then that requirement should apply equally to all sellers to customers located in that state. H.R. 2887 would exacerbate the current discrimination against local brick and mortar retailers and lead to a further decline of Main Street retailers that are the backbone of every community.

We urge this Committee to quickly convene a hearing on H.R. 2193, the Remote Transactions Parity Act. We believe this legislation provides parity at the point of sale, so essential to the needs of Main Street America, and also provides simplification and audit protections sought by smaller remote sellers.

We look forward to working with this Committee on a solution that would end the tax discrimination currently imposed on Main Street retailers.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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