



March 7, 2012

Dear Members of the Kansas House of Representatives Tax Committee:

I am a business owner in Wichita, Kansas. I know firsthand the importance for Kansas to require *all* online-only retailers to start collecting sales tax on purchases. The unfair advantage that out-of-state online only companies enjoy is an insult to all the small business owners with “bricks-and-mortar” stores in Kansas—an unfair advantage set up by the government.

Every day I have customers come into my store, ask for my expertise, and then take the information and purchase the product online so they can “save” in sales tax. This is not just happening to me but it is happening to business owners throughout the state of Kansas. I am like all other “bricks-and-mortar” small businesses in this state and community that contribute to our economic growth. Not only do we provide jobs for local residents but we also contribute to local community organizations, and collect sales tax according to the outdated laws that do not apply to on-line businesses doing business in our state.

We cannot compete with a 6-7% disadvantage. We're all going to go away if somebody doesn't address this problem. It isn't fair for government to take one piece of retail and give it an advantage over the rest of the retail sector. It also is very destructive to our economy and community, that's both local and across our state. I would urge you to give us a level playing field. We are tough--we can compete but not if we don't have a level playing field.

It is time for a change. My hope is that our legislators will pass e-fairness legislation (HB 2610) and give our businesses the relief and level playing field we deserve now.

Sincerely Yours,
Sarah Bagby