



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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January 9, 2012

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
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

Dear Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Conyers:

I am writing to express Governor Patrick's support for federal legislation authorizing states to collect sales tax on remote sellers like Internet sellers. We join the National Governors Association and more than 25 other states in supporting federal legislation to ensure that this collection takes place.

Massachusetts loses nearly \$200 million in revenue every year because we are unable to ensure that our existing sales tax is collected on these remote, often Internet-based, sales. That amount grows every year. This situation also significantly harms the competitiveness of local brick-and-mortar retailers, who do collect our state sales tax.

Bipartisan support for federal legislation is growing. Even Amazon, the most affected Internet retailer, recently announced support for a version of it.

This is not a new tax, merely an effort to ensure that an existing tax is collected – an effort necessary to level the playing field for local retailers.

We urge your support for this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Gonzalez

Cc: Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

