(Your name)

(Your address)

(Your phone and/or email)

(Date here)

Dear (Legislator’s name here),

First, let me say thank you for serving our community!

I am writing today to express my great concern regarding the loss of sales tax money due to on-line shoppers not having to pay local sales tax. As you may know, sales tax revenues support our city services such as police, fire, streets, parks and other vital municipal services. E-commerce has changed the playing field for retail shopping, and it is no longer balanced.

Community-based retailers have waited for more than two decades for Congress to take action and close the online sales and use tax loopholes. E-fairness legislation is critical to leveling the playing field for our local retailers and reinforcing our local sales tax base to support our towns and Cities. Are you aware that Oklahoma lost an estimated 60.1 million in sales tax revenue in 2016? The following are resources for your review:

* <http://www.civiceconomics.com/empty-storefronts.html>
* <https://civiceconomics.wordpress.com/2016/01/25/amazon-and-empty-storefronts/>
* <https://www.dropbox.com/s/b7xdyebkjnx92gu/Oklahoma%202015.pdf?dl=0>
* <http://www.ncsl.org/research/fiscal-policy/collecting-ecommerce-taxes-an-interactive-map.aspx>
* <http://usmayors.org/metroeconomies/0613/MarketplaceFairnessReport.pdf>

Specifically, we need legislation that provides parity when a purchase is made. A consumer should be able to clearly understand their tax obligations when they make a purchase. The consumer’s obligation should be the same regardless of if the purchase is made at a local store, on a mobile device or from a computer.

We are asking for your help in supporting local businesses by encouraging a vote on E-fairness legislation in 2017. Local businesses need a fair chance to compete and should be able to expect E-fairness as every other aspect of the business world is legislated.

Your support of this legislation is critical for my home town, Midwest City. Local sellers need a level playing field to compete in today's retail marketplace. Since a sale is a sale whether it takes place on the Internet or at a local business, thus the same rules that apply in our community should also apply online.

Our local businesses deserve a fair chance to compete in today's retail environment. It’s time to pass E-fairness legislation.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature