STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

June 14, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

I am writing to urge you to cosponsor S. 1832, the *Marketplace Fairness Act*. This bipartisan legislation would provide state governments with the tools necessary to consistently enforce sales and use tax laws. By helping to ensure passage of this legislation this year, you will send a strong message to businesses throughout Michigan that you support a level playing field upon which all businesses can compete.

As you know, I believe that a simple, clear tax code that does not pick winners and losers is one of the most important tools available to foster economic growth and create jobs. The *Marketplace Fairness Act* would close an enormous loophole that favors online retailers over the "brick-and-mortar" retailers that create jobs throughout our state. Allowing online retailers to forgo collection of state sales and use taxes at the point of sale provides them an unfair competitive advantage that threatens the viability of brick-and-mortar retailers, many of which are the small businesses that make up the cultural backbone of the many wonderful communities throughout Michigan.

The Internet is an established, innovative and important marketplace that we utilize daily to trade knowledge, goods, and services. It has enriched commerce and communication to a previously unimaginable degree. We must continue to work together to foster exactly that kind of technological advancement, which has improved the lives of so many, but we must not do so in a way that provides an advantage to one kind of retailer at the expense of another. Technology currently exists to correct this problem; the *Marketplace Fairness Act* would make sure it is utilized.

Additionally, as the State of Michigan continually strives to improve its "customer service" to our citizens, the estimated loss of $872 million in sales and use tax revenue in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 due to e-commerce will deal a significant blow to our efforts improve the quality and efficiency of services throughout the state. The *Marketplace Fairness Act* would provide all states with the authority to fairly collect the revenue that they are already owed.

I strongly encourage you to cosponsor this important legislation and I look forward to working with you to ensure its passage this year.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder
Governor

CC: Senator Carl Levin