July 24, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Representative Pelosi, Senators Reid and McConnell:

We are writing to request your support for enactment of S. 1832 this summer. S. 1832 is the Marketplace Fairness Act, sponsored by Senators Enzi, Durbin, Alexander, and others.

This legislation will protect the rights of our states to determine state fiscal policies and establish a level playing field for all retailers, both on Main Street and online. This bill will not create a new tax. Nor will it require our states to raise taxes. Rather, it will permit states to require the largest one percent of out-of-state sellers to collect an existing tax on sales to in-state buyers. Although buyers already owe this state tax, they rarely even know about it. The Supreme Court has explicitly held that Congress has the authority to grant the states this permission.

The bill will not apply to the smallest 99 percent of sellers online. Only the largest one percent of sellers – those with interstate sales over $500,000 per year – will be affected. These sellers easily can use already-available computing technology and services to comply. If any sellers, even larger sellers, were exempted, fairness to all retailers would diminish. So we ask that you support the exemption in S. 1832.

We believe that the time to act is now and, respectfully, request your support for enactment of S. 1832 as soon as possible, hopefully by August. Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert Bentley
Governor of Alabama

Dennis Daugaard
Governor of South Dakota

Paul LePage
Governor of Maine

Mitch Daniels
Governor of Indiana

Bill Haslam
Governor of Tennessee

Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan