



DON'T TRUST MISINFORMATION ON MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT



In order to collect the proposed remote sales tax, businesses would be forced to send personal information about their customers to a host of state revenue departments. (Grover Norquist, Letter to Senate Republicans, 3/19/2013)

FALSE. Retailers do not send information about their customers to state revenue departments. Never have, never will. This is a WHOPPER.

Remote sellers would be forced to “interrogate their customers about their place of residence.” (Andrew Moylan, R Street, “An Open Letter to the United States Congress: Oppose the Marketplace Fairness Act!” 3/11/2013)

SAY WHAT? It is customary to enter your address if you want the merchandise delivered TO YOU. Not to mention those pesky credit card companies that tend to like verifying your address to ensure you're not a thief. This rhetoric isn't extreme, it's just nonsense.

“Congressional Republicans led by Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming and Democratic Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, are about to raise Americans' taxes and set in place the foundation for states to be able to tax downloads from the internet, including from places like iTunes.” (Erick Erickson, “Led by Sen. Mike Enzi, Republicans Will Vote to Raise Taxes & Tax iTunes Downloads,” RedState, 3/20/2013)

FALSE. The Marketplace Fairness Act does not raise taxes, and it has nothing to do with digital downloads or your iTunes account. Another completely bogus scare tactic designed to mislead.

HEAR WHAT OTHER CONSERVATIVE LEADERS HAVE TO SAY

Al Cardenas, Chairman, American Conservative Union (ACU):

“A robust free-market system requires a level playing field, where the government doesn't get to pick winners and losers in the marketplace. Senator Enzi and Congressman Womack deserve praise for their efforts to empower states to make their own revenue policy choices and create a fair system of tax collection. The number one threat to the future of American competitiveness isn't other countries-- it's our tax law. When it comes to state sales taxes, it is time to address the area where federally mandated prejudice is most egregious – the policy towards Internet sales, the decades-old inequity between online sales and in-person sales as outdated and unfair.” (“Statement from ACU Chairman Al Cardenas Applauding Efforts to Address Marketplace Fairness,” Press Release, 2/14/13)

Ned Ryun, President and Founder of American Majority:

“One of the basic principles of the conservative movement is that the market, not the government, should pick economic winners and losers. The only role that government should play is to ensure a fair and level playing field. When it comes to sales taxes, that principle has gone out the window in the Internet age... The tax discrimination in favor of online sales is unfortunately another example of a federal government that has lost its way by clinging to its power. Under federalism and the 10th Amendment, powers not vested in the federal government are retained by the states... Decisions that can be made by governors and state legislatures—who are close to the people and thus responsive to citizens' needs—should be left at the state level. That is the heart of true federalism. (Ned Ryun, “Main Street Deserves A Level Playing Field,” The American Spectator, 3/15/2013)

Colin A. Hanna, President, Let Freedom Ring:

“By tacitly permitting most online retailers not to collect sales taxes the same way that brick-and-mortar retailers do, the federal government is in essence providing a government-created competitive advantage to a class of online e-tailers over the traditional retailers who are the backbone of American small business... Current law on Internet retail sales does not promote transparency; instead it countenances a hidden subsidy to a certain kind of business. To support this is not a conservative position and actually undermines one of conservatism's cardinal principles: the rule of law.” (Colin Hanna, “Level the Playing Field between Retailers and E-Tailers,” The Hill, 3/19/2013)

Stephen DeMaura, President of Americans for Job Security:

“The Marketplace Fairness Act is a workable solution that finally levels the playing field for small businesses and empowers states to collect the taxes that are already owed. For states like Montana, New Hampshire, Delaware, and Oregon that currently have no sales tax, nothing will change. For those that do have a sales tax, states will merely be empowered to have online retailers collect the existing sales tax from consumers at the time of purchase, like our local retailers do. Most importantly, the Marketplace Fairness Act makes these reforms in a way that puts the ultimate taxpayer first, protecting individuals, empowering consumers, and encouraging economic growth.” (Stephen DeMaura, “Online Sales Taxes Done Right,” Real Clear Policy, 3/15/2013)