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12/11/14

Attn:

Congressman Mick Mulvaney

RE: Marketplace Fairness Act

I am in favor of passing a marketplace  
fairness Act so that everyone in the retail  
business will be on equal footing!  
This is not a new tax, it is an equal tax.

If any business should receive a benefit it  
should be the local businesses who have  
invested in brick & mortar and who support  
their local communities, but the truth is all  
business should be equal with no one  
receiving an unfair advantage by not having  
to collect Sales Tax.

I appreciate Graham calling me back  
in a timely manner and he did an excellent  
job representing you on the phone.  
Please keep me informed. Thank you!

LaVerne McKenzie

## Drakeford urges support for Marketplace Fairness Act

Call your congressman to pay for what we do. One way to remedy this competitive disadvantage is for Congress to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act in December. The Marketplace Fairness Act would require online businesses to collect these sales taxes and remit them back to the city as required.

This holiday shopping season, many of us will turn online to purchase gifts. We enjoy the convenience of shopping online, but it comes at a cost to all of the businesses in our city. I ask you to think about how our local retailers are affected by the competition from out-of-state online retailers. Did you know that the state of South Carolina is not able to collect more than \$254 million in state and local sales tax from these out-of-state online retailers?

Did you know that our hometown businesses are at a competitive disadvantage every time a consumer purchases from an online out-of-state retailer? They face unfair competition created by a tax loophole that is being exploited by online stores. That's because our hometown retailers are required to collect sales tax at the point of purchase. The online out-of-state company is not required to collect this tax, even though it is due to the state and local governments. It is the consumer's responsibility to remit the tax as part of his income tax return at the end of the year, which rarely happens.

This makes no sense. It hurts businesses in our city and hurts the city's ability

Time is critical. Call or email your congressman this week because the House of Representatives must act in December if the Marketplace Fairness Act is to become law this year. Phone calls and emails will be much more effective. The Marketplace Fairness Act has support from retail businesses, Amazon.com, the Municipal Association of South Carolina and National League of Cities, all who know the bill will create competition and help our city. It is imperative that Congress pass the bill before the end of the year. I ask you to contact U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney of the 5th District. Each call and email matters.

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For email, visit <http://mulvaney.house.gov> and click "Email Mick" at the top.

**Alfred Mae Drakeford,  
Camden City Council**

Graham From Lucas  
Evelyn Natalia