[Date]

The Honorable [First Name] [Last Name]

United States [Senate/House of Representatives]

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

Dear [Senator/Congressman Last Name],

On behalf of the [Number] residents of [Name] County, I respectfully request your urgent help and support to combine the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) with a temporary extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA) and pass the measure before the end of this year.

The MFA is not a new tax; it would level the playing field between online and Main Street retailers. Without that level playing field, local retailers in [Name] County are at a disadvantage because of the 5-10 percent competitive advantage many online retailers have since they are not required to collect sales taxes. The MFA would require states and local governments to simplify their sales taxes and ease compliance in return for the authority to collect more than $26 billion in taxes that are already owed. This revenue could help counties like [Name] County provide essential services to our communities. In my county, sales taxes are used to [describe expenditures for county services using sales taxes such as road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, education and infrastructure].

These services are relied upon by our residents and local businesses. However, remote retailers rely on them too because the channels they use to deliver their goods all involve, in one form or other, the services we provide. For example, online businesses use county owned and maintained roads to get products to their customers, who are our residents.

The ITFA was designed to be a temporary moratorium to allow the Internet to grow. However, that was in 1998, a far different time where it may have been hard to conceive that we would eventually be able to instantly get online from anywhere in the world using devices that fit in the palm of our hand. Indefinitely prohibiting state and local government authority to set tax policy would run contrary to the original intent of the ITFA.

After more than a decade of work, MFA passed the Senate last year with broad bipartisan support. After so much progress, Congress should not stop now. The time has come to join with us to promote the continued growth of electronic commerce, ensure fair competition and preserve state and local authority. Thank you for your continued service to [Name] County.

Sincerely,

[Name of Local Elected Official]

[County, State]