



City of Omaha  
Jean Stothert, Mayor

**Office of the Mayor**  
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July 17, 2018

RE: Require internet retailers to collect and remit state and local sales tax on online purchases.

Dear Senator:

The U.S. Supreme Court recently overturned *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota* and it is now constitutional for states to require internet retailers to collect and remit state and local sales tax on online purchases, just as local retailers have done for years. This is not a new tax, but one that is already owed! Out-of-state online retailers circumvent our tax laws and create hardships for local and state governments which are looking for ways to lower property taxes and/or fund desperately needed repairs to our streets and highways.

Also of concern is the competitive disadvantage that exists between out-of-state online retailers and struggling local brick-and-mortar vendors whose prices are higher because they must collect and remit state and local sales tax. Local retailers contribute in many other ways to their communities, including paying property taxes. Brick and mortar retailers are indispensable to the economies of our cities and state.

It is my hope that the state will pass legislation as soon as possible, even in a special session if necessary, to require online vendors to collect and remit state and local sales tax. A number of states have already done so. It should be noted that the advantages of a special session would outweigh its cost and would give senators a chance to establish minimum sales thresholds so small online vendors would not be negatively impacted.

Thank you for your consideration and your immediate attention to this important issue. Please call me at 402-444-6275 if you wish to further discuss my concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jean Stothert  
City of Omaha