

January 19, 2011

Dear Governor Quinn,
The Honorable Patrick Quinn
Governor –State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Via Facsimile 217-524-4049

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing to ask you to sign HB 3659 as soon as possible.

This holiday season, a number of news stories talked about the impact Cyber Monday had on local employers. While I certainly believe retailers of all types have to be capable of competing in a modern economy, I am deeply concerned about the fact that online-only retailers are not required to collect the sales tax at the point of purchase the way all other stores in Illinois do. This sort of uneven playing field seems unfair to the businesses already in our state. Why are we giving out-of-state online retailers who don't contribute any jobs or any tax revenue to our communities such a sweetheart deal?

When someone buys a camera, television or any other product from an online-only retailer whose only difference in price is reflected by the fact that they don't collect the sales tax, it is bad for our economy. It threatens jobs at Illinois businesses, and it short changes our state because no sales tax is collected.

HB 3659 fixes this disparity and gives everyone the chance to compete on the same playing field. Perhaps more important to the dire financial situation the state finds itself in, HB 3659 collects badly needed tax revenue that is sleeping through the state's fingers.

A level playing field is necessary for all businesses to compete and to retain and grow jobs. Please don't raise taxes on everyone else before ensuring that the sales tax we already have on the books is collected fairly and equally across the board.

Sincerely,