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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 389 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, THOMAS, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE AND  
READSHAW, JUNE 13, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, JUNE 13, 2017

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass the Marketplace  
2 Fairness Act during the first session of the 115th Congress  
3 to assist state and local governments in the collection of  
4 revenues due to local governments that are essential to local  
5 and regional economic expansion.

6 WHEREAS, Many state and local governments rely on the  
7 collection of sales and use taxes to support funding to improve  
8 needed infrastructure improvements, strengthen local small  
9 businesses, create jobs for their residents and fund essential  
10 services; and

11 WHEREAS, Local small businesses confront expanded competition  
12 from the explosion of Internet sales by remote sellers who are  
13 unwilling to collect and remit properly assessed sales taxes to  
14 state and local governments; and

15 WHEREAS, National studies reveal that state and local  
16 governments lose more than \$11 billion each year from  
17 uncollected sales taxes from transactions involving remote  
18 Internet retailers; and

19 WHEREAS, State and local associations, including the

1 Government Finance Officers Association, the National League of  
2 Cities, the National Association of Counties, the United States  
3 Conference of Mayors and the National Governors Association,  
4 along with partners in the retail community, worked together for  
5 years to develop a fair and easy system to collect and remit  
6 these sales taxes, structuring a system of collection based on  
7 the purchaser's location; and

8 WHEREAS, Through this collaborative effort, an effective and  
9 efficient response in eliminating the competitive disadvantage  
10 faced by our local small business retailers appeared in 2013  
11 when the United States Senate passed the Marketplace Fairness  
12 Act through a bipartisan effort, which would have established a  
13 fair system for the collection of existing taxes owed to state  
14 and local governments; and

15 WHEREAS, The Marketplace Fairness Act has been stalled  
16 through inaction by the United States House of Representatives  
17 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House of  
18 Representatives, chaired by the Honorable Bob Goodlatte, for  
19 more than three years; and

20 WHEREAS, Time has long passed for continued and inexplicable  
21 inaction, and 2017 presents the opportunity for the new Congress  
22 to demonstrate political courage and break the unwarranted and  
23 unjustified stalemate by moving the Marketplace Fairness Act  
24 from the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House  
25 of Representatives to a vote on the floor of the House of  
26 Representatives during the first session of the 115th Congress;  
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
29 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge Speaker of the United  
30 States House of Representatives Paul Ryan, Chairman Bob

1 Goodlatte and members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
2 United States House of Representatives to move the Marketplace  
3 Fairness Act out of the Committee on the Judiciary with a  
4 recommendation for passage by the United States House of  
5 Representatives; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge the Congress of the  
7 United States to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act during the  
8 first session of the 115th Congress and send the clear and  
9 unequivocal message to states and localities that the Congress  
10 of the United States supports owners of small businesses who  
11 create jobs, produce revenues to support essential  
12 infrastructure improvements and create a stronger and more  
13 resilient economy for the benefit of all Americans; and be it  
14 further

15       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
16 The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the United States House of  
17 Representatives; The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman of the  
18 Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House of  
19 Representatives; the presiding officers of each house of  
20 Congress; and each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.