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Don't let poll fool you – e-Fairness is good for Idaho

Idaho taxpayers will see tax relief once e-Fairness legislation is passed

Boise, ID – Idaho businesses are warning people not to be misled by a poll being released by the National Taxpayers Union and R Street today in Boise regarding online sales tax. The groups say their data indicates Idaho voters oppose out-of-state online sales tax collection. Idaho business leaders are concerned this poll only tells one side of the story.

“Idaho is in a unique situation and I, along with other business leaders, am not sure this poll takes that into account,” said Pam Eaton, President of the Idaho Retailers Association. “Idahoans will see tax relief once Congress passes e-Fairness legislation thanks to a bill passed during this year’s legislative session. E-Fairness legislation can put Idaho business on a level playing field and provide a tax cut for our citizens – a win-win for everyone.”

Idaho’s House Bill 593, which was signed by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter in April, creates a statewide savings account where all future revenue Idaho brings in from online sales tax will be collected and directed toward local tax relief. The account will sit empty until Congress passes e-Fairness legislation.

Idahoans are supposed to report untaxed online purchases, however, in 2012, less than 10,000 Idahoans actually reported purchases they made online when they filed their income tax returns. The Idaho State Tax Commission estimates Idaho is losing \$46.4 million a year in lost revenue from unpaid online sales tax.

“Currently, a legal loophole, created before the Internet even existed, is encouraging customers to make purchases from online out-of-state retailers so they can avoid paying sales tax,” said Pat Nagel, owner of Idaho Camera. “Our government has put Idaho stores at a six percent price disadvantage. We want to continue serving the customers in our community for years to come but in order for that to happen something has to change – Congress has to pass e-Fairness legislation.”

Former economic advisor to Ronald Reagan, Dr. Art Laffer, conducted a study last summer to show the impacts e-Fairness legislation would have on the economy. He found growing taxes can be offset with e-Fairness and determined Idaho would be able create 7,633 jobs once federal e-Fairness legislation is passed. For more details on his study, [click here](#).

“There are two sides to every story,” said Eaton. “If Idahoans are going to have an accurate discussion on e-Fairness all the information has to be laid out on the table.”

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