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COMMITTEES

EDUCATION
BUSINESS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House of Representatives State of Idaho

July 23, 2014

BOISE – *State Representative Lance Clow (R-Twin Falls), issued the following statement regarding new poll findings by the Washington DC based National Taxpayers Union:*

“I, along with many of my colleagues at the statehouse, have been a strong supporter of leveling the playing field for Idaho’s brick-and-mortar stores and online retailers. The issue of e-Fairness has been debated long enough and it is time for Congress to act. Unfortunately, the National Taxpayers Union is looking to hijack the progress that has been made to date.

Currently, the government is picking winners and losers in the marketplace. We force local businesses to charge and collect sales tax while online retailers do not face those same obligations. It is time to stand up for Idaho retailers and fix this ongoing problem.

In Idaho, e-Fairness legislation won’t just help our local businesses it will also bring tax relief into our state. During this past legislative session, Idaho lawmakers passed and Governor C.L. ‘Butch’ Otter signed into law House Bill 593, which created a statewide savings account for future online sales tax revenue to be collected and put toward tax relief.

The National Taxpayers Union wants to continue incentivizing Idahoans to shop outside of our state by keeping an outdated tax loophole intact. According to the National Taxpayers Union media advisory that was sent out on July 21, 2014, “Idaho voters overwhelmingly oppose out-of-state tax collection on Idaho-based online retailers.” E-Fairness legislation is intended to assure that Idaho retailers are not unfairly competing against out-of-state retailers, who are not required to collect the same sales tax an Idaho based retailer, online or in store, would be required to collect. When I have visited with Idaho businesses and citizens, they overwhelmingly support e-Fairness legislation. Unfortunately, this issue is often presented as an internet tax, which is not accurate. In Idaho, we support our taxpayers, our businesses and e-Fairness legislation.”

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