



Colorado Retail Council / 1580 Lincoln Street, Suite 1125 / Denver, CO 80203
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The Colorado Retail Council Supports HB 1295

CHERRY CREEK

SHOPPING CENTER

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April 26, 2013

The Honorable Mark Ferrandino
Speaker of the House
Colorado House of Representatives
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203

Mr. Speaker:

As General Manager of the Cherry Creek Shopping Center, I am writing today in support of your House Bill 1295 regarding simplifying Colorado sales tax in readiness for the Marketplace Fairness Act. Because online retailers are not required to collect state and local sales tax, they are able to offer the same products at a 6-10% lower cost than our stores here in Cherry Creek. Closing this tax collection loophole would restore fair competition to the marketplace and would require businesses of all types and sizes to finally play by the same rules.

We strongly support Congress's attempt to address the issue at the federal level, and we also applaud you and the Colorado General Assembly for the state's initiative in finding a solution to the comparative disadvantage that harms Colorado businesses.

As the online marketplace continues to grow and internet sales continue to increase dramatically, the time to act is now. Local brick-and-mortar businesses can no longer afford to act as showrooms for online retailers who are able to sell the same item tax-free, just as the state can no longer afford to lose tens of millions of dollars every year by failing to require remote vendors to collect sales tax.

HB 1295 is an important tool for keeping Colorado businesses competitive in the modern-day marketplace, and would assist in bringing much-needed fairness and modernization to Colorado's tax code.

Thank you for your support of Colorado businesses.

Sincerely,



Nick LeMasters
General Manager

cc: State Representative Lois Court, Chair of House Finance Committee
Christopher D. Howes, President, Colorado Retail Council



April 26, 2013

Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members,

I am writing in support for House Bill 1295, which would simplify Colorado's sales tax system and ease collection obligations on businesses. Colorado should make these changes to not only simplify and streamline its current sales tax system, but to also avoid a delay in the establishment of tax fairness between brick and mortar and online only retailers.

Target collects sales taxes every day from our customers both online and in our stores. In 2012, we paid over \$95 million in sales taxes to the state. HB 1295 will streamline the tax collection process under a system that provides employers one point of contact, requires only one payment, and eliminates unnecessary multiple audits. Not only will these changes streamline the sales tax system, but are necessary when the federal Marketplace Fairness Act becomes law.

Target supports the federal Marketplace Fairness Act which lays out a framework for states to level the playing field and require online-only retailers to collect and remit sales tax. The Marketplace Fairness Act has seen overwhelming bipartisan support in the United States Senate, and both Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet voted in favor of the Act. It is imperative for Colorado to enact sales tax simplification this session to avoid implementation delays.

We are proud of our presence in Colorado and support for the local economy and communities where we are located. Our commitment to Colorado includes 40 stores and one distribution center. Target employs over 7,000 Coloradans with a payroll of over \$156 million. In 2012, we donated over \$4 million and our team members contributed thousands of volunteer hours.

We respectfully request your support on this important issue to ensure a level playing field for all retailers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irene Quarshie".

Irene Quarshie
Director, Government Affairs