

News Release

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NAREIT ENDORSES REMOTE TRANSACTIONS PARITY ACT OF 2015

Act Introduced in House with Bipartisan Support

WASHINGTON, DC, June 16—The National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT) strongly endorsed the <u>Remote Transactions Parity Act of 2015</u> (RTPA), H.R. 2775, which was introduced yesterday in the House of Representatives. The legislation would create a roadmap for states to collect the sales and use taxes on internet sales they already are owed, provide tax parity for brick-and-mortar and internet retailers, simplify state tax filing for individuals, and help address state budget shortfalls at no cost to the federal government.

The RTPA is co-sponsored by Representatives Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Steve Womack (R-AR), along with Reps. Lou Barletta (R-PA); John Conyers (D-MI); Carlos Curbelo (R-FL); Suzan DelBene (D-WA); Ted Deutsch (D-PA); Robert Dold (R-IL); Renee Ellmers (R-NC); Derek Kilmer (D-WA); John Larson (D-CT); Kristi Noem (R-SD); Scott Rigell (R-VA); Jackie Speier (D-CA); Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Peter Welch (D-VT). Among other things, RTPA would provide a plan for simplification so states may impose collection responsibility equally on retail sales, regardless of whether they occur at storefronts or online. Additionally, RTPA would provide an exemption for small remote sellers and would relieve consumers of having to self-report sales and use taxes they already owe.

Similar to the <u>Marketplace Fairness Act, S. 698</u>, introduced earlier this year in the Senate by Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), along with a number of bipartisan co-sponsors, RTPA would use a destination-based model in addressing collection of sales and use taxes from online sales. Unlike its counterpart bill introduced in the Senate, RTPA also would include additional audit protections and a longer transition period for small remote sellers.

"NAREIT commends Representatives Chaffetz and Womack, and the other RTPA cosponsors for their leadership in drafting legislation that would create a more level playing field on which all retailers may compete," said NAREIT President and CEO Steven A. Wechsler.

NAREIT is a member of the Marketplace Fairness Coalition, a broad group of businesses and trade associations that supports RTPA. The group includes the International Council of Shopping Centers, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, the National Retail Federation, the American Farm Bureau, the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, the Consumer Electronics Association and thousands of other American businesses. Notably, online retailers Overstock.com and Amazon.com, among others, also support the legislation.

For more information about the Marketplace Fairness Act and related legislation, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>. For more information about the Marketplace Fairness Coalition, including a list of companies and organizations that support federal legislation for marketplace fairness, visit <u>www.marketplacefairnessnow.org</u>.

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