



Texas Retailers Association

The Voice of Texas Retail

504 West 12th Street • Austin, Texas 78701 • (512) 472-8261 • (800) 299-4872 • Fax (512) 474-5011 • www.txretailers.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2011

Contact:

TRA: Carrie Blanda

512-472-8261

Cblanda@txretailers.org

Representative Otto Stands Up For Texas Retailers in Congressional Hearing
Otto testified today on Main Street Fairness legislation before Congressional Judiciary Committee.

Austin, TX – Today, State Rep. John Otto (R-Dayton) testified before the Congressional Judiciary Committee in support of H.R. 3179, the Marketplace Equity Act. This legislation would create a constitutional framework for collecting sales tax online. Rep. Otto authored similar legislation during the Texas 82nd Legislative Session.

“My concern is that we are migrating to an economy that will entice people to go to the Internet where they are getting 8 or 10 percent discounts on big ticket items. That is a significantly unfair marketplace advantage.” said Rep. Otto.

Last session, Rep. Otto and the TRA joined forces to pass e-fairness language into Senate Bill 1 which ensures that online-only retailers with a business presence in Texas must collect sales taxes rather than reaping a competitive advantage over local brick-and-mortar retailers that employ Texans. His legislation also ensures that these online-only retailers invest in local communities and pay sales and property taxes here in Texas.

“The Texas Retailers Association (TRA) commends Rep. Otto on his leadership both state and nationwide on the issue of Main Street Fairness legislation, said Ronnie Volkening, President of the Texas Retailers Association. “The passage of comprehensive Main Street legislation in Texas could generate more than 13,000 new jobs and increase state revenues by more than \$700 million. Texas Retailers should contact their Congressional and Senatorial representatives to voice their support of H.R. 3179.”

The Texas Retailers Association is a statewide trade association representing members in virtually every sector of the retail industry in Texas. Texas retailers employ 1.9 million Texans, comprising 18% of the Texas workforce, delivering nearly \$360 million in sales annually.

Learn more at Txretailers.org [Follow TRA on Twitter](#) [Like TRA on Facebook](#)
