

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steven Bellone
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 7, 2018

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the NYS Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable John J. Flanagan
Majority Leader of the NYS Senate
Room 330, State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12247

RE: Executive Budget Proposal – Internet Fairness Conformity

Dear Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Flanagan:

This year, the Governor has advanced a proposal in his SFY 2018-19 Executive budget proposal that would require marketplace providers to collect sales tax when they facilitate a third-party sale to residents, whether the seller is located within or outside of New York. Online providers such as Amazon and eBay supply a marketplace for sellers from outside of New York to sell their products to New York consumers without collecting sales tax.

We respectfully request that you include this proposal (REV, Part AA) in your respective SFY 2018-19 One-House budget proposals. The current system is unfair to local businesses on Long Island who lose customers and sales revenue every day to online marketplace providers. This proposal would modernize New York State's current sales tax collection procedures and level the playing field for our brick-and-mortar stores.

Unlike the Main Street businesses in our communities, larger companies are not required to enforce the collection of sales tax on internet purchases, which puts them at an unfair competitive advantage. Amazon and similar marketplace providers should be required to collect sales tax on the sales they facilitate regardless if the seller is in state or not. Additionally, New York State and local governments like Suffolk and Nassau counties are losing out on millions of dollars of tax revenue annually.

This proposal is simply about fairness and enforcing the collection of sales tax. With your leadership and support, we will be able to create a level playing field for local business in New York.

Sincerely,

STEVEN BELLONE
Suffolk County Executive

LAURA CURRAN
Nassau County Executive

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