KURT D. HODGEN
City Manager

City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

345 South Main Street
Post Office Box 20031
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 432-7701 / FAX (540) 432-7778

CITY COUNCIL

TED BYRD, MAYOR
CHARLES CHENAULT, VICE MAYOR
RICHARD BAUGH
KAI DEGNER
ABE SHEARER

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES FAIRNESS FOR BRICK AND MORTAR AND INTERNET BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, local retailers have been hurt in recent years by online and catalog purchases by customers who believe they get a discount by not paying sales tax, and

WHEREAS, a brick and mortar retailer collects the sales tax at the time of purchase in a store, but the responsibility for paying the tax from a remote online purchase shifts to the Internet customer who should pay the sales tax when filing an annual state tax return; and

WHEREAS, most taxpayers are not aware of the responsibility to remit these taxes; and

WHEREAS, State and local governments do not have a mechanism to collect such sales taxes owed for Internet purchases and thus put retailers located in the City of Harrisonburg at a competitive price disadvantage to remote sellers; and

WHEREAS, the current taxation system creates a confusing sales tax payment system; and

WHEREAS, local brick and mortar retailers serve as a foundation of the local economy and are permanent, engaged members of the community who employ City residents and support the local community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The City of Harrisonburg City Council does hereby encourage Congress to enact appropriate legislation to help level the playing field between brick-and-mortar retailers and remote online competitors; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to send an attested copy of this resolution to the City's Congressional delegation.

Adopted this 10th day of June, 2014.

BY: _____
Ted Byrd, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Erica Kann, City Clerk