October 11, 2011

Dear Representative Walsh and Senator Anderson:

I have previously e-mailed you regarding HB 5004 and HB 5005, the affiliate nexus tax bills and my strong opposition of these bills. I also plan on attending your office hours on 10/21 to speak with you further about the subject.

If these bills pass, the state will NOT gain additional taxes, and my small business income will be devastated in the process. My income is earned from advertising and affiliate marketing on my website. My site, "Cents"able Momma is targeted at moms like me who want to save money and get a great deal. I currently have two MI contract workers whom I would likely have to let go due to the loss of income from Amazon and other affiliate companies. It would also be very detrimental to our family, since my husband has the very real possibility of losing his job in the coming months - making my website our sole household income.

These bills claim that by advertising on my websites, out-of-state retailers will be forced to collect sales tax from Michigan citizens. But the bill misses one very critical point: out-of-state retailers will simply stop advertising on my websites to avoid having to collect sales tax – and my income will be devastated. This isn't an idle threat, my peers in NY, NC and RI had their online advertising businesses nearly wiped out overnight when hundreds of retailers terminated their advertising agreements when similar laws passed. I am certain they will terminate me if the law passes here. If passed, this law would wipe out my business and still not collect any new sales tax dollars.

I urge you reject HB 5004 and HB 5005. They will not earn any additional tax revenue for Michigan, and it will damage my business in the process.

Sincerely,
Corrie Cole
Owner, "Cents"able Momma
www.centsablemomma.com