



Sometimes a Bargain Isn't What It Seems!

In these tough economic times everyone is looking for a bargain. But some bargains we can't afford. States and local governments are losing \$23 billion a year because many online retailers refuse to collect sales taxes. Sales tax dollars fund important services like schools, hospitals, as well as police and fire departments.

Online retailers argue that it is too difficult for them to collect sales taxes. But we know the real reason is to protect the price advantage that giant online retailers use over their brick and mortar competitors.

This unintentional government subsidy is unfair and it is forcing many local mom and pop retailers

out of business. That means job losses and empty store fronts in your neighborhood.

So, the next time you think you are getting a bargain by shopping online and avoiding paying sales tax think again. The few dollars you save may just be costing you and your neighbors more in the end.

The International Council of Shopping Centers is striving to create a fair and level playing field for all retailers whether they sell online, in a mall, or on Main Street.



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