The Federation of Small Businesses

We, the undersigned, petition the Prime Minister to secure the future of small shops across the UK and safeguard the choice and competition that people expect in the market place.

The House of Commons All-Party Small Shops Group estimates that there will be no independent retailers by 2015. This equates to the loss of 50,000 small businesses. Small shops are str uggling to survive because of local, regional and national government policies, together with the failure of the competition authorities to deal with the aggressive policies of supermarkets.

The loss of the UK's independent retailers has far reaching socio-economic and environmental implications for the whole community. Superstores and small independent shops should not be considered as two separate markets. An independent regulator should be created to ensure that local retail planning decisions do not have a negative effect on the interests of the local community. Unfair pricing advantages, such as below cost selling, should be prohibited.

FSB Says... KEEP TRADE LOCAL

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