



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

OCT 22 2003

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

We write to express our strong support for passage of legislation to make the moratorium on Internet access taxes permanent, regardless of the speed of that access, and on multiple or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. We believe that government should support e-commerce, Internet usage and availability, including the use of broadband technology, and not discourage it through new administrative barriers or taxes. As you know, the moratorium expires on November 1 of this year. While the House of Representatives passed H.R. 49 on September 17, 2003, the Senate has yet to pass the companion legislation, S. 150. We support expediting passage of this important legislation to enable President Bush to sign it before the moratorium expires.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue of great importance to American consumers and businesses. Please let us know if we can be of assistance on this matter. We look forward to working with you to obtain the permanence of the Internet tax moratorium. If you should have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us or Brenda Becker, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Commerce, at (202) 482-3663, or Pam Olson, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, Department of the Treasury, at (202) 622-0050.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Evans", written in a cursive style.

Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Snow", written in a cursive style.

John W. Snow
Secretary of the Treasury

The Honorable Bill Frist
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cc: Senator John McCain, Chairman, Senate Committee
on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Senator Ernest Hollings, Ranking Member, Senate Committee
on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Senator Charles Grassley, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Max Baucus, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee