



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

November 7, 2003

The Honorable Christopher Cox
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cox:

Thank you for your letter supporting a permanent moratorium on Internet access taxes, regardless of the speed of that access, and on multiple or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. I appreciate your steadfast leadership on this important issue to American consumers and businesses. I share your belief that government should support e-commerce and Internet availability and usage, including the use of broadband technology, and not discourage the Internet's growth through new administrative barriers or taxes.

Secretary Snow and I recently cosigned letters to Senate leadership outlining the Administration's strong support of H.R. 49 and S. 150, as well as to the Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee (copy enclosed). Department of Commerce senior officials have also been working closely with Senator Allen and his staff to ensure swift Senate passage of S. 150.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance as you continue to move for Senate passage. If you should have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Brenda Becker, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Commerce, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

Donald L. Evans

Enclosure



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,

Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce

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**