

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Passage of a permanent ***“Internet Tax Freedom Act”***

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leaders Reid and Pelosi:

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we urge Congress to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA) once and for all. Since its initial enactment in 1998, the ITFA been extended multiple times and is now set yet again to expire on December 11, 2015. While the ITFA has always been extended with broad bi-partisan, bi-cameral support, each time it is set to expire consumers are left wondering how they will be adversely impacted by the new state and local taxes that would be imposed on their ability to access the Internet. That is why it is important for Congress to take this uncertainty away and make the policies set forth in ITFA permanent.

The ITFA accomplishes two main goals: it bans state and local governments from taxing Internet access charges and assessing multiple and/or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. The purpose of this law was to “promote and preserve the commercial, educational, and informational potential of the Internet.” A purpose that is even more valid today.

The Internet has brought astounding changes to both our economy and our daily ways of life. We now learn, shop and do business online. We communicate with friends and family online. The Internet provides a dynamic mode of communication for American society, as well as our neighbors and allies around the world. Accordingly, we believe that a consumer’s ability to access the Internet should remain unburdened by taxes. We must not allow a patchwork of state and local taxes to restrict access to this dynamic and empowering segment of the economy that contributes significantly to our overall economic growth.

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Given the dynamic role this technology plays in our economy, it is time for Congress to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act. The Internet is now a basic necessity for our business and personal lives, and it is time for Congress to provide much needed certainty to all Internet users that state and local taxes will never be allowed to hinder affordable access for all Americans.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

CompTIA (formerly TechAmerica)
Technology Councils of North America

Arizona Technology Council (AZTC)
Austin Technology Council (ATC)
California Technology Council
Chesapeake Regional Tech Council (CRTC)
Colorado Technology Association
CONNECT
Connecticut Technology Council (CTC)
Idaho Technology Council (ITC)
Illinois Science & Technology Coalition
Illinois Technology Association (ITA)
KCnext - The Technology Council of Greater Kansas City
Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MassTLC)
Nashville Technology Council New
New Hampshire High Tech Council (NHHTC)
New Jersey Tech Council (NJTC)
New York Technology Council (NYTECH)
North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA)
OCTANe
OHTech
Orange County Technology Alliance
Tech Collective
Technology Association of Georgia (TAG)
Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK)
Technology Association of Oregon (TAO)
Tech Titans
Utah Technology Council
Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA)
Wisconsin Technology Council