



MAY 14 2003

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner:

We are writing to urge you to swiftly schedule Judiciary Committee consideration of legislation to extend the moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. Quick consideration by the Committee and the full House will allow Congress time to pass, and the President to sign, legislation before the current moratorium expires on November 1 of this year.

The Internet is an innovative force that opens vast potential economic and social benefits of e-commerce and enables such applications as distance learning, telemedicine, e-business, e-government and precision farming. The next-generation, broadband Internet offers even greater impact, and this Administration strongly supports the deployment of broadband services. In this regard, government must not slow the roll-out or usage of Internet services by establishing administrative barriers or imposing new access taxes. As the President stated at the Waco Economic Forum in 2002, "If you want something to be used more, you don't tax it."

Your efforts, Mr. Chairman, were critical in passing the last extension in 2001. We look forward to working with you again on this important issue. 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

John W. Snow

cc: Rep. John Conyers, Jr.
Rep. Christopher Cox