

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 52

Expressing the sense of Congress in opposition to a “bit tax” on Internet data proposed in the Human Development Report 1999 published by the United Nations Development Programme.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Mr. ASHCROFT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress in opposition to a “bit tax” on Internet data proposed in the Human Development Report 1999 published by the United Nations Development Programme.

Whereas the Internet has become a highly valued tool for millions of people in the United States and promises to be an integral component of international commerce communications;

Whereas the Internet has spurred entirely new industries dominated by the United States and has become critical to the continued growth of our economy;

Whereas emerging telecommunications technologies promise to extend the benefits of the Internet to a growing percentage of the world population;

Whereas the Internet should remain tax-free;

Whereas any global tax collected by the United Nations would present a threat to the sovereignty of the United States and would violate the United States Constitution;

Whereas Americans are by far the greatest users of the Internet and would thus be disproportionately affected by any global Internet tax;

Whereas the most effective and just way to spread technology and wealth is through the operation of a free market;

Whereas the rapidly increasing sophistication and decreasing cost of telecommunications and computing products and services should not be disturbed; and

Whereas the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 1999 proposed that a so-called "bit tax" be levied on all data sent through the Internet: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress urges the Administration to
 3 protect the sovereignty of the United States by aggres-
 4 sively opposing the global "bit tax" proposed in the
 5 Human Development Report 1999 published by the
 6 United Nations Development Programme.

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