

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 127(c) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section, shall apply to the issuance of credit card accounts under open end consumer credit plans, and any increase of the amount of credit authorized to be extended thereunder, as described in those paragraphs, on and after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I do not have further matters. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have some unanimous consent requests that the leader has asked me to make.

ORDER FOR VOTES ON AMENDMENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, as under the order, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the following amendments, and further, no amendments be ordered to the amendments prior to the votes: the Feinstein amendment No. 27, as modified, and the Kennedy amendment No. 39.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNET TAX MORATORIUM AND EQUITTY ACT

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, it is an unfortunate irony that the important things in life are often left unsaid. It may surprise some to know that, of all things, congressional legislation cannot escape this truism.

In fact, the most important piece of education legislation Congress considers this year will not mention schools or students. The most important law enforcement legislation we consider this year will not recognize the officers that safeguard our streets. And, the most important piece of emergency services legislation we address this year will not reference the firefighters and paramedics who keep our communities safe.

In 1998, Congress passed the Internet Tax Freedom Act. That bill imposed a three year moratorium on specific State taxes applicable to the Internet. The legislation didn't affect the States' ability to impose sales tax on Internet purchases, nor did it fix the unfair advantage "e-tailers" currently have over their main street competitors with respect to their responsibility to collect sales and use taxes.

As a result of two Supreme Court rulings, a State is prohibited from requiring out-of-State retailers from collecting sales tax on purchases made by its residents if the business has no presence in the State. The sales tax still applies, it just has to be collected directly from the purchaser. For a variety of reasons, very little of this tax is ever collected.

The Internet Tax Freedom Act created the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce which was supposed to come up with a solution to this problem. Instead the Commission was hijacked by a small group who opted to demagogue this issue to further their "anti-tax" agenda. The result was a year-long study of an issue with little in the form of useful recommendations.

The game plan of the forces supporting the status quo is clear: delay, delay, delay. Keep extending the moratorium until there is a sufficiently large political constituency to permanently block the collection of sales taxes on purchases made over the Internet.

This is not a hidden agenda. Governor Gilmore, Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce stated it clearly when he said that "I believe America should ban sales and use taxes on the Internet permanently, for all time. If we secure tax freedom on the Internet through 2006, tax freedom on the Internet will become an entitlement for the American people and a political inevitability. No tax collector will be welcome on the Internet after 2006."

Let me be clear: this is not about whether purchases made over the Internet are subject to sales tax. They already are. The question is whether Internet sellers should have the same responsibility to collect the sales tax as their Main Street competitors.

If we answer this question with a "no," funding for education, law enforcement and emergency services will suffer. Why? Because States have the fundamental responsibility of financing public education in our country. Patrolling our streets, safeguarding the health and safety of our citizens—these tasks could not be accomplished without our State and local governments.

For most States, sales tax revenue is the primary means by which States fulfill these responsibilities. Because many States rely on sales taxes for their general revenue, the equation is simple—no collection of sales tax on the Internet means less money for new schools, police officers, and rapid response equipment. Six States—Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington rely on sales taxes for more than half of their total tax revenue.

According to the General Accounting Office, by 2003 losses to State and local government revenues from uncollected sales taxes on Internet sales could climb as high as \$12.5 billion. Florida's share of that lost revenue could be as

much as \$1 billion. When asked why he robbed banks, Willie Sutton replied, "that's where the money is." Today, the money is increasingly on the Internet.

There is another reason to fix this issue: fairness. No one would seriously consider a proposal that barred State and local governments from collecting sales and use taxes from retailers who operate in green buildings. That would be unfair to those businesses that aren't located in green buildings. Yet that is fundamentally what proponents of the status quo argue for Internet retailers.

Our position should be clear: no more delays. No more moratoriums until Congress agrees to a process whereby States are directed to simplify their sales tax systems in exchange for the authority they need to require remote sellers to collect their sales taxes.

The legislation introduced last Friday takes the first positive step in this direction. That bill extends the current moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple or discriminatory taxes on the Internet, a prohibition that virtually all agree should be imposed.

More importantly, however, it establishes a process whereby States can cooperatively unify and simplify their sales and use tax systems. Sales tax laws must be made significantly more uniform across the states and the administration of the tax must be substantially overhauled and simplified. The goal of this legislation is to develop a simple, uniform and fair system of sales tax collection. It will reduce the burden on remote sellers while protecting State and local sovereignty.

Once States have adopted this simplified system, they would then have the authority to require remote sellers to collect and remit sales and use taxes to the State.

Previous attempts to require remote sellers to collect sales and use taxes have been criticized on the grounds that it was unreasonable to require businesses to keep track of the nearly 7,500 separate jurisdictions levying sales and use taxes. This bill addresses that criticism by requiring the states to dramatically simplify their sales and use tax systems by establishing uniform definitions and fewer rates.

The streamlined sales and use tax system envisioned by this legislation follows the guidance offered by the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce. The attributes of this streamlined system include: a centralized, one-stop, multi-state registration system for sellers; uniform definitions for goods or services that would be included in the tax base; uniform and simple rules for attributing transactions to particular taxing jurisdictions; uniform rules for the designation of and identification of purchasers exempt from tax; uniform certification procedures for software that sellers may rely on to determine State and

local taxes; uniform returns and remittance forms; consistent electronic filing and remittance methods; State administration of State and local sales taxes; uniform audit procedures; reasonable compensation for tax collection by remote sellers; exemption for remote sellers with less than \$5 million in annual sales for the previous year; appropriate protections for consumer privacy; and such other features that a member states deem warranted to promote simplicity.

Critics of this legislation argue that it is anti-technology, and that the Internet must be protected from this threat. That is not true. The sponsors of this bill yield to no one in their support and enthusiasm for a vibrant information technology industry. But that support does not necessitate special breaks for companies doing business over the Internet.

This legislation is more appropriately characterized with one word: fairness. It promotes fair treatment for all retailers. In addition it protects States' abilities to collect the resources necessary to make the education investments that will pave the way for the next technological breakthrough—the next Internet. I hope my colleagues will join the sponsors of this bill and support this approach.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOAN FINNEY

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the first woman ever elected governor of the great State of Kansas, and my good friend, Joan Finney.

Unfortunately, Governor Finney is currently in a serious battle with liver cancer.

Governor Finney served 16 years as State treasurer before becoming the first woman elected to the State's highest office, where she served as governor from 1991 through 1994. She did not seek a second term.

A resolution adopted by the State Democratic party describes her as someone who "gave tirelessly and selflessly to the people of Kansas, dedicating her energy, optimism, openness and faith to serving the people of Kansas."

I had the honor and privilege to serve with Governor Finney when I was Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Kansas.

It was a true honor to serve with someone who believed so much in public service. Particularly in a country that is marked by a growing skepticism about public service in general, and some of our public servants in particular, Governor Finney was a breath of fresh air in our capitol.

She embodied bipartisanship in so many ways; often working in a bipartisan way to advance the causes for which she so deeply believed. Her service to the State of Kansas will not soon be forgotten.

The Democrats at their annual meeting in Topeka this year adopted a resolution describing Governor Finney as "truly one of Kansas' most adored native daughters", and she is.

I extend my best wishes to Governor Finney as she faces this difficult period in her life. She and her husband, Spencer, need our prayers, they already have mine.●

DR. ROBERT GODDARD

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the contributions of a man who helped pave the way for the American space flight program. Seventy-five years ago, on a cool morning in Auburn, MA, Dr. Goddard and his small group of students and assistants huddled around a nine-pound, awkward looking structure and began the first of many, now familiar countdowns. Seconds later the small vehicle rose forty-one feet into the air and fell to the ground amid the cheers of those below. The age of modern rocketry was begun. Today, Doctor Goddard is recognized around the world as the father of modern rocket propulsion.

Goddard's dreams began, like thousands of other young children, with stories from his childhood. He was born in 1882, in Worcester, MA, as the only child of a bookkeeper. In 1899, at age 17, young Robert dozed off in a cherry tree after having read H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*. He dreamt he had ascended to Mars in a machine driven by centrifugal force. When he awoke he devoted his life to making his dream of spaceflight a reality.

His aspiration of devising a system for propelling men away from the Earth led him to pursue an education in physics. In 1908, he earned his Bachelor's of Science degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He went on to receive his Master's in Physics from Clark University in 1910 and his doctorate in 1911. His early efforts in rocket propulsion mathematically explored various ideas including solar power, electric ion propulsion, and explosive firing from a large cannon as narrated in Jules Verne's classic 1865 novel *From the Earth to the Moon*. His work eventually rejected all of these ideas as for lack of efficiency or power.

In 1914, Doctor Goddard patented a system for using liquid propellant to lift rockets into the cosmos. That same year he also received a patent for a multiple stage system. Goddard devoted his life to the ideas and concepts of rocket propulsion that he first demonstrated in 1926. Forty-three years later these two patents were put into practice to propel Neil Armstrong and his fellow astronauts to their historic moon landing in 1969.

From 1920 to 1929 his work was sponsored primarily by the Smithsonian Institution. During this period, Goddard wrote four unsolicited reports in which he revealed his visions of space exploration. He foretold of manned vehicles

exploring the moon and the planets, solar power, ion propulsion, and even journeys to other star systems. Goddard requested that these reports be kept confidential because these lofty concepts were completely unacceptable to the scientific community of the 1920s. In 1932, in a letter to H.G. Wells, Goddard wrote, "[A]iming at the stars, both literally and figuratively, is a problem to occupy generations, so that no matter how much progress one makes, there is always the thrill of just beginning. . . ." His visionary ideas were the spark that ignited the passions of hundreds of young men and women to transform his idealistic dreams into reality.

But he wasn't just a dreamer. His practical solutions led to 214 total patents. In the early 1920s, Goddard began a series of rocket tests of which the 1926 launch was the hallmark. One of the key theories proven by Goddard's experimentation was that a rocket will function in the vacuum of space. Before Goddard's meticulous tests, it was widely believed in the scientific community that rockets moved by pushing against the air. Goddard proved that rockets functioned on the reaction principle and that they would perform in a vacuum. On this foundation, the path was laid for scientists and engineers to build on Doctor Goddard's work and lead the United States to the forefront of the space race.

At his namesake, the Goddard Space Flight Center, in Greenbelt, MD, the tremendous NASA scientists and engineers recently celebrated forty years of continuing Dr. Goddard's legacy of discovery and exploration. So, on this day, we should remember the efforts of this courageous visionary and his successors as the finest example of American perseverance and ingenuity. Without Robert Goddard's enterprise, our race to the stars would have faltered. His historic launch is truly one of the great mileposts on the road to the modern space age.●

ELIAS "SKIP" ASHOOH

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Skip Ashooh, a dynamic and inspiring entrepreneur and the 47th recipient of the prestigious Citizen of the Year Award from the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Skip, a native of the Queen City was honored with this award where he was applauded by more than 650 enthusiastic business and community leaders who gathered together to honor this outstanding citizen. Skip was surprised to see his exuberant mother and six siblings who reunited to share in this joyous occasion.

Upon completion of his bachelors degree from Saint Anselm College in 1973, Skip pursued a career as a junior high social studies teacher in Manchester where he shared his love of American history with his students.

After many years of teaching, Skip launched a new career as a licensed