

tax categories for the Internet is exactly the wrong thing to do.

E-commerce should not be subject to new taxes that do not apply to other commerce. Indeed, without a moratorium, there are 30,000 different jurisdictions around the country that could levy discriminatory or multiple Internet taxes on E-commerce.

Let's not allow the future of electronic commerce—with its great potential to expand the markets of Main Street businesses—to be crushed by the weight of discriminatory or multiple taxes.

Extending the bar on Internet access taxes will help Vermonters end the digital divide and help Vermonters compete for better jobs. Earlier this year, the University of Vermont released a study that found only 39 percent of Vermonters who earn less than \$20,000 a year have personal computers, while 67 percent of Vermonters who earn more than \$35,000 a year own personal computers. And 92 percent of Vermonters who do own a computer are connected to the Internet. We have to close this digital divide for Vermonters to have the skills for the good-paying jobs of the 21st century.

The Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act will bar Internet access taxes and multiple or discriminatory taxes on goods and services sold over the Internet to provide the stability necessary for electronic commerce to flourish, and to help close the digital divide for all Americans.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR ARMENIA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the Miscellaneous Tariff bill, in particular a provision granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations to Armenia.

Armenia is a critical U.S. ally in the Caucasus region and PNTR will significantly strengthen bilateral relations and spur economic growth and prosperity in Armenia. It allows Armenian products continued access to the U.S. market at low tariff rates and will go a long ways towards offsetting the impact of Turkish and Azeri blockades that cost Armenia as much as \$720 million annually.

Simply put, this means jobs and rising living standards for Armenians who want to stay in their country and create a better tomorrow for their children. Armenians have worked so hard to overcome the horrors of the past to build a country based on values Americans and Armenians both share: freedom, democracy, open markets, respect for human rights and the rule of law. We should stand behind those efforts.

I am proud to represent over a half million Armenian Americans in California. They are a strong, vibrant community who have enriched the culture of our State and participated in every aspect of its civic life.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting PNTR for Armenia.

RETIREMENT OF CLARE COTTON

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the outstanding contributions made to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by Clare Cotton, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. Next month, Clare will retire after 17 years of impressive service and advocacy on behalf of 55 Massachusetts colleges and universities, their students, and faculty.

In fact, Clare's contributions to higher education reach far beyond our State. His dedication, knowledge, and passion for education have improved the lives of countless students in communities across America. It is difficult to consider any aspect of policy in higher education without thinking of Clare and calling upon his expertise. All of us who know him will miss him greatly.

Clare's leadership in higher education is based on his brilliant intellect, his love of learning, and his sound political instincts. In conversation, he could call up specifics of accounting regulations governing private colleges and universities, refer to undergraduate enrollment trends in science and math, and discuss the impact of both on a pending piece of legislation.

His work in 1997 as a member of the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education is still cited by leaders of all sectors in the field. Need-based aid never had a better advocate than Clare, when he served first as a member and then as chairman of the congressionally authorized Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance during 2002 and 2003.

Whatever the issue, Clare is adept at assessing its political and economic cost to students and institutions, and he has championed colleges and universities and their students for nearly all of his professional life.

His impressive contributions have earned him distinguished status in the national associations of Colleges and Universities, and he has served in leadership positions in two of these organizations. Almost no policy decision could be made without Clare's wise counsel and support.

Clare's brilliant career was very much honed at the local level. From 1977 to 1987, he was president of the Boston-Fenway Program, an urban planning group of 12 non-profit educational, cultural and medical institutions. Long before it became fashionable, Clare helped build an educational consortium that was able to maximize scarce financial resources and enhance both the quality and depth of these landmark institutions in Boston. Community policing in Boston was born through Clare's work with the Fenway consortium.

Earlier in his career, Clare had also been a writer and a journalist. He was director of European Securities Publications in London during the 1960s, and he also served as a correspondent for The Wall Street Journal.

Anyone in our nation who hopes for a better life and sees college education as the means for achieving it owes Clare Cotton a tremendous debt of gratitude. Our colleges and universities and Congress alike have benefited from his wise counsel, gentle humor, tireless dedication, and skillful advocacy. I wish him a long and happy retirement with his wonderful wife Helen, their four remarkable children, and their nine grandchildren, and I salute him for all he has done so well for Massachusetts and our country.

INTERNET ACCESS TAX MORATORIUM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, the Internet plays a critical role in today's global economy. It allows us to work harder, faster, and more efficiently. With the click of a mouse, we can seal business deals, send birthday cards, and buy cars. We have come to rely on its ability to connect us with people and places around the world. Today Congress cleared an important piece of legislation that will help keep the internet affordable and accessible for all Americans.

Today's passage in the House of S. Con. Res. 146, which amends S. 150, signals the end of months of long and difficult negotiations. I would like to commend my colleagues, Senators ALLEN, WYDEN, ALEXANDER, CARPER, VOINOVICH and MCCAIN for their commitment to this issue. Their hard work has allowed us to pass a fair and reasonable moratorium on internet access taxes. The moratorium will protect all Internet users, regardless of connection platform, while ensuring that states and localities do not lose billions in tax revenue.

The moratorium on internet access taxes is necessary now because broadband technology is still in its infancy in many parts of the country. In Wyoming, we have a number of small towns where Internet service is limited to 14.4 Kbps dial-up service. At that speed, it takes all day to download one song—a song that was legally obtained, of course. The only way we are going to improve the availability of broadband services in places like rural Wyoming is by eliminating unnecessary and burdensome taxation and regulation. Consumers in every part of the country want and deserve internet access. The internet access tax moratorium will make sure they can afford to subscribe to whatever service is available. I am confident that as more consumers spend their hard-earned money on Internet services, the cable companies, telephone carriers, satellite providers and other Internet service providers, ISPs, will invest more of their money in deploying high-speed broadband services.

Renewing the Internet tax moratorium is important for consumers, but it is also a major issue for states and local communities that rely on certain tax revenue from telecommunications.

These state and local governments have made the decision to tax certain services and, as a former mayor and State legislator, I respect their ability to do so. However, I agree with my colleagues that Internet access is a special service that should be tax free. The difficult part is trying to define what "Internet access" actually is. We have spent months listening to telecommunications providers, consumers, and local officials define what telecommunications services are and when and where telecommunications taxes should start and stop. Not surprisingly, the groups have disagreed more often than not. Despite the struggle, I believe we came up with a reasonable compromise on the definition and the grandfather clauses, which will give our state and local governments the time they need to phase out taxes imposed prior to the moratorium.

Now that we have passed the moratorium on Internet access taxes, I am anxious to refocus some of our energy on a bill I introduced in both the 107th and 108th Congresses. The Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Act would simplify the extremely cumbersome network of State sales and use taxes and help States begin to recover from years of budgetary shortfalls. The bill would authorize States that have signed the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement and have passed legislation simplifying their tax system to require all sellers to collect and remit sales taxes.

My streamlined bill, which has 20 cosponsors this year, is a critical bill that many of my colleagues are learning more about and recognizing its growing importance as Internet usage explodes. Two years ago the revenue loss attributed to the Internet sales tax loophole was fairly minimal. Today, the revenue loss has ballooned as online and other remote sales have increased. The States have responded to this budget crisis by signing the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement and implementing legislation that drastically simplifies their sales and use tax systems. In fact, 21 States have already signed into law the necessary implementing legislation, while 8 others are currently in the process of doing so.

As the States continue to make progress on reforming their sales tax systems, I would urge Congress to make progress on a bill that will provide to the states the authority they need to collect their own taxes. I intend to introduce the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Act again next year and hope to work with the Finance Committee Chair and other members of the Senate to pass it into law.

In the meantime, I am pleased we will have in place a moratorium that recognizes the importance of the Internet and will allow it to grow and prosper in the coming years.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONORING DR. RICHARD AXEL

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Axel, the co-recipient of the 2004 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. Dr. Axel received this prize for research that he and his co-recipient Dr. Linda Buck conducted on the ways in which our brains process smells. Drs. Axel and Buck are pioneers in the field of sensory biology, and have contributed much to our knowledge of how humans comprehend olfactory information. Their prize-winning research was conducted at Columbia University Medical Center, where Dr. Axel is a University Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics and Pathology.

Dr. Axel grew up in Brooklyn and received his earliest training at Manhattan's Stuyvesant High School. Because of his interest in science, he found a job as a glassware washer at a Columbia medical research facility, where he was soon promoted to a research position. By the time he graduated from Columbia College, his work had already been published in scientific journals. Dr. Axel has spent the majority of his subsequent career performing neuroscience research at Columbia University.

I would like to note that Dr. Axel's prize is the latest in a series of distinguished scientific honors earned by residents of New York. The 2003 Nobel Prize for Chemistry was awarded to Dr. Roderick MacKinnon of Rockefeller University, and in 2000, Dr. Eric Kandel of Columbia University was one of the recipients of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

Next month, Dr. Axel will travel to Stockholm to accept the 2004 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Axel for receiving this tremendous honor. I look forward to learning of the future discoveries that will result from Dr. Axel's groundbreaking research.

I ask that an article about Dr. Axel from *In Vivo*, the Columbia University Medical Center campus newspaper, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

A LIFE IN SCIENCE REWARDED

(By Susan Conova)

Discoveries made at CUMC about the sense of smell go beyond providing a description of what most people think is merely an aesthetic sense. Instead, understanding how the brain distinguishes among a bewildering array of different odors gives scientists a much greater understanding of how the brain works.

"Odors generate specific behaviors and specific thoughts and how that happens is still an unsolved and fascinating mystery in brain science," says Richard Axel, M.D., University Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics and Pathology and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on Oct. 4. "Knowing how our perceptions of the external world, including smell, impact our emotions and our behavior will be extremely important in thinking about diseases like schizophrenia to understand how the brain works."

When Dr. Axel and his former postdoctoral researcher Linda Buck, Ph.D., of the Fred

Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, began their work in the late 1980s, very little was known about the sense of smell.

In 1985, Dr. Buck came across a paper describing the unsolved question of how odors are detected in the nose and was immediately hooked by "the monumental problem and a wonderful puzzle."

"This paper opened up a fascinating new world for me," she wrote earlier this year in the journal *Cell*. "It was estimated that humans could perceive 10,000 or more chemicals as having distinct odors. How could the olfactory system detect such an enormous diversity of chemicals? And how could the nervous system translate this complexity of chemical structures into a multitude of different odor perceptions?"

The questions would remain unanswered unless the receptors responsible for picking up odorants in the air were identified. In 1988, Dr. Buck, working in Dr. Axel's lab at P&S, started tracking them down.

Several initial attempts failed. "Linda was an extremely creative and tenacious Fellow," Dr. Axel says. "The solution to this problem took quite a long time, but the thoughtfulness of her approach made me think she would eventually succeed."

In 1991 Drs. Axel and Buck broke the field open when they published a paper describing an enormous family of genes in mice that coded for 1,000 different receptors. The study was reported in newspapers and other news media worldwide. Later work revealed about 350 functional receptor genes in humans.

"We were quite surprised that up to 5 percent of the genome was taken up by odor receptors," says Dr. Axel, also a member of Columbia's Center for Neurobiology and Behavior. "That's a sharp distinction to the three genes that the visual system uses to discriminate several hundred different hues. It shows that a system like the visual system would be inadequate to distinguish among the rich variety of odors in the environment."

Gerald Fischbach, M.D., executive vice president and dean, says the finding ranks among the most important discoveries of the past 50 years: "The discovery of the genes opened up a field of sensory biology that didn't exist before."

Once the receptor genes were identified, both researchers independently moved to the more complex question of how the brain knows what the nose smells, with the support of the NIH and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, where the two are investigators. Their labs and others have revealed that part of the answer is that each odor produces a unique spatial pattern, or map, of neuronal activity in the brain's olfactory center. If the olfactory center was laid out like a map of the United States, it would be as if the aroma from a rose would light up Boston, New York, and San Francisco, while rotting food would light up Los Angeles and Denver.

The question now, Dr. Axel says, is figuring out how an organism uses these odor maps. We can look down at the maps of activity in an organism's brain and see what it's smelling, but how does the process actually work within an organism? "To know that the world is interested in our work will, I think, intensify our efforts toward reaching an answer," Dr. Axel says. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING DR. RHONA CAMPBELL FREE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today, congratulate Dr. Rhona Campbell Free,