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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8037

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Roach, Swecker and Esser

Read first time 01/22/2004. Referred to Committee on Technology & Communications.

1 TO THE HONORABLE PATTY MURRAY AND THE HONORABLE MARIA CANTWELL:  
2 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
3 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
4 represent and petition as follows:  
5 WHEREAS, In 1998, Congress enacted, and in 2001 extended, the  
6 Internet Tax Freedom Act to protect consumers who used the Internet and  
7 encourage more individuals to access the Internet; and  
8 WHEREAS, The legislation eliminated taxes on Internet access,  
9 double-taxation of a product or service bought over the Internet, and  
10 discriminatory taxes that treated Internet purchases differently from  
11 other types of sales; and  
12 WHEREAS, The moratorium on Internet access led to the rapid growth  
13 of the Internet, which in turn brought good economic news; and  
14 WHEREAS, We live in an age of innovation, where the medium of the  
15 Internet is sparking a sharp increase in entrepreneurship and  
16 opportunity, the likes of which have not been seen since the beginning  
17 of the Industrial Revolution; and  
18 WHEREAS, Enacting a tax on Internet access will do significant  
19 damage to the United States economy and decrease the standard of living  
20 for all Americans; and

1       WHEREAS, On September 17, 2003, the House of Representatives  
2       unanimously passed a permanent ban on all Internet access taxes,  
3       however, when the bill came to the Senate floor, pro-Internet tax  
4       Senators used parliamentary and other underhanded procedural tricks to  
5       force supporters of the legislation into negotiations; and

6       WHEREAS, Opponents of a tax free Internet used the negotiations to  
7       stall and stop final passage of a permanent ban on Internet access  
8       taxes to achieve their true desire and tax the Internet;

9       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
10      Senators from our state pass a clean, permanent, and technologically  
11      neutral extension of the Internet tax moratorium.

12      BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
13      transmitted to the Honorable Patty Murray and the Honorable Maria  
14      Cantwell.

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