

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Ranking Member, Communications & Technology  
Subcommittee  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Ranking Member, Commerce Committee  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Wyden, Representative Eshoo, and Senator Thune:

On behalf of the members of organizations from a diverse political spectrum, we write today to express our strong support for the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (H.R. 3086) and the Internet Tax Freedom Forever Act (S. 1431). We greatly appreciate your continued leadership on this issue, and stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to ensure swift passage of legislation to make the moratorium on multiple and discriminatory taxes and taxes on Internet access permanent before the current Internet tax moratorium expires on November 1, 2014. With strong bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress, these bills should be considered for passage prior to the August recess to avoid any uncertainty that will result from delay.

Internet taxation affects all Americans from all political views and all walks of life. From healthcare to education, small business entrepreneurs to Fortune 500 companies, the Internet has dramatically transformed the way everyone lives, works, and learns. In 2010, the Internet accounted for an estimated \$684 billion, or 4.7 percent of all U.S. economic activity. While the Internet was a nascent technology when the current moratorium was established in 1998, it has become the economic engine driving innovation and growth in our 21st century economy. Throttling that engine at a time when our economy is struggling hurts not only those trying to invest in America's future, but also those who can least afford it and have the most to gain from the Internet's potential.

By establishing tax policies that will help keep access to the Internet affordable and Internet commerce free from multiple and discriminatory taxation, more and more citizens of all economic levels will be able to participate in today's digital economy. In fact, the impact of the Internet on the economy helped to convince a majority of the members on the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce to recommend in 2000 to make the Internet tax moratorium permanent. While the Internet tax moratorium has been extended three times since then, short-term extensions are no substitute for the certainty that will be provided by ensuring that there will never be a tax on access to the Internet.

Below are some quotes from the organizations on the letter:

"While Congress and the President want consumer adoption, investment, deployment and innovation in broadband services, allowing the imposition of onerous taxes would nullify these goals. We need to not tax what we should encourage." *Steve Pociask, President of The American Consumer Institute Center for Citizen Research*

“Ensuring that our business members continue to have affordable and reliable internet access will allow them to remain competitive in today’s global economy. We support the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (H.R. 3086) because we understand that our country is strongest when citizens of all economic levels have fair access to the internet.” *Ron Busby Sr., President of U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.*

“It is not often that an issue receives bipartisan support in Washington, D.C., but the Internet tax moratorium is a rare area where both liberals and conservatives have found common ground.” *Tom Schatz, President of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste*

Again, we thank you for your leadership on these issues and we look forward to working with you to achieve making the Internet tax moratorium permanent.

Sincerely,



60 Plus Association



Center for Individual Freedom



Southern Christian Leadership Conference



Hispanic Leadership Fund



Madery Bridge Associates



National Coalition on Black Civic Participation



U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.



The American Consumer Institute Center for Citizen Research



Consumer Action



The Latino Coalition



National Association of Neighborhoods



National Taxpayers Union



Women Impacting Public Policy



Americans for Tax Reform



Health IT Now



League of United Latin American Citizens



National Black Chamber  
of Commerce



Taxpayers Protection  
Alliance



American  
Commitment



Council for Citizens  
Against Government Waste



The Information  
Technology &  
Innovation Foundation



Minority Media and  
Telecommunications  
Council



National Hispanic  
Council on Aging



U.S. Hispanic Chamber  
of Commerce



Americans for Job  
Security



Digital Liberty



Less Government



National Caucus and  
Center on Black Aging.  
Inc.



Net Competition