channel interference sounds like. For there, two local FM radio stations, three channels apart, cross paths, and the interference is clear and apparent. That is the reality that we do not want to replicate in any sort of low power FM proceeding at the FCC. By dropping third channel interference rules, the FCC is creating an environment whereby it is clear that interference will increase. How much? The broadcast industry says a lot. The FCC, very little. So the question is who is right?

Well, now we are going to find out. The independent third party testing provisions of the legislation we passed in this House allow for a 9-month, nine-market analysis of low power FM. Not only will that analysis look at existing FM stations, but it will also analyze the impact on reading services for the blind, FM translators and the advent of digital radio. These are the issues that the FCC decided were not important, so it never tested any of them.

It is a shame that the FCC was not more aggressive in doing testing itself. After all, this agency is supposed to be the guardians of the spectrum. But by measuring distortion rather than using the internationally recognized standard for interference, the FCC cooked its own results in a way that allowed for it to move forward. That decision came even as Congress was out of town in January, as if our views on this subject did not matter. The fact is that low power FM is a symptom of this agency that does not recognize its responsibilities to Congress. This low power FM action is simply the latest in a series of FCC actions that call into question the whole notion of accountability at the FCC.

I am not opposed to low power FM. I do oppose the way in which the FCC decided to move forward, and I will be watching the results of the third party testing that this bill mandates to see if low power FM can, indeed, coexist with full power stations. The FCC appears to be bent on providing the service whether or not it causes interference or other problems for FM listeners. Our responsibility here in Congress is to those listeners, our constituents. I congratulate my colleagues in the House for passing legislation. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

PROMOTING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, all across America, people woke up this morning to front page stories in their communities about the Million Mom March against gun violence. There are pictures of the hundreds of thousands of people who gathered here on the Mall in Washington and other stories featuring the crowds in their hometowns in dozens and dozens of communities across America. I joined thousands of people for a march to Pioneer Square in Portland, Oregon yesterday. I do not know if there were a million moms or not.

Based on the reports that I have reviewed, it is likely that the hundreds of thousands here in Washington, D.C. and the tens of thousands in communities across the country could easily have reached or surpassed that number. The issue for me is not so much whether there were a million moms who marched, but the million moms who grieve.

In the last third of a century, over a million victims have been claimed by gun violence in the United States, more than the entire number of Americans lost in all the wars from the Civil War right through today. Yesterday's gathering was in memory of the million victims, though the testimony was not just of a million victims, but a million mothers, a million fathers, millions of brothers and sisters and grandparents whose lives were touched forever by gun violence.

The Americans who participated were not, in the main, advocates or activists. They were largely people who know that America can do better. They know that despite the opposition of the National Rifle Association to the Brady Bill, that America is safer because people with criminal records or a history of mental illness have been prevented by that Brady Bill from getting a half million guns.

They know that if these prohibitions were extended to people with a history of committing violent misdemeanors, that America would be safer still because these people are 15 times more likely to commit violence with weapons. They know that if we care enough as a Nation to make it harder for a 2-year-old to open a bottle of aspirin, then we can make it harder for that 2-year-old to shoot her sister. They know that the gun show loophole should in fact be closed, especially when they learn that the delay of a few hours for a certain category of people who are not cleared instantly, that these people are 20 times more likely to have the record of mental health problems or criminal records that are precisely the people we want to keep weapons away from.

The American public knows that we can succeed. In the 1960s, Congress and the auto industry, prodded by the public, began a war on traffic deaths that resulted in safer cars and tougher laws. In the 1980s, a mother who lost her child to a drunk driver decided to add her voice to that of many others, and MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, was born, and the government was encouraged, some would say forced, to crack down on drunk driving.

As a result of all of these options, in the last third of a century, we have cut the death rate on our highways in half. The mothers march is a signal to people all over America that it is time for a similar effort to reduce gun violence in our communities.

Everybody knows that there is no single solution, but that there are many small steps that will save lives. If we in Congress are serious about listening to our constituents and making our communities more livable and safer, we have to start today. Why does the Speaker not direct the conference committee on juvenile crime, which has not met since last August, to meet now and address the simple, commonsense provisions to reduce gun violence that have already passed the Senate?

Action by this House would be an important sign that we can send to our constituents that we understand their concerns and we share their passion for saving families from unnecessary violence, making our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier and more economically secure.

TECHNOLOGY, THE NEW ECONOMY AND DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much this opportunity today to talk about technology, the new economy and digital opportunity for all Americans, but let me begin by just sharing some statistics.

Over 100 million U.S. adults today are using the Internet, and seven new people are on the Internet every second. 78 percent of Internet users almost always vote in national, State and local elections, compared to 64 percent of nonInternet users. It took just 5 years for the Internet to reach 50 million users, much faster than traditional electronic media. In fact, it took 13 years for television to reach 50 million and radio, 38 years.

The Internet economy generated, just in the past couple of years, over $300 billion in revenue in 1998. It was responsible for creating 1.2 million jobs. Preliminary employment data now shows that the U.S. high technology industry employed 4.8 million workers in 1998, making it one of our Nation's largest industries, in fact, larger than steel, auto and petroleum combined. In 1997, the high tech average wage was 77 percent higher than the average U.S. private sector wage.

I am proud to say I represent the great State of Illinois, what some call the land of Lincoln. People often do not think of Illinois as a technology center, but it is. In fact, Illinois ranks third today in technology exports and fourth in technology employment. But clearly, Illinois is one of the top 10 cyber States, as some would say, a major State that is producing new technology and new ideas.

I have talked with many over the years, over the last few years, in particular, about what it takes and why

this economy is growing so well in Illinois. And, that is, they say that government has actually stayed out of the way of the new economy. The new economy has been tax free, it has been regulation free, it is trade barrier free. That is why it has been so successful, creating opportunity for so many. That is why I am pleased that House Republicans continue to lead the way in technology. Our e-contract continues to work for a tax-free, regulation-free, trade-barrier-free new economy. And, of course, one of the areas we want to focus on is the area of providing digital opportunity for all Americans.

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You know, it is unfortunate that it seems the higher the income, the more likely you are on-line. Families that have incomes of $75,000 or more are nine times more likely to have a home computer, and more than 20 times more likely to have Internet access than a low or moderate income family.

When asked why lower income families and more moderate income families do not have Internet access or a home computer, those families, those working families, cite that cost, the cost of the computer, the cost of subscribing to the Internet access, is a chief barrier.

That is why I am so pleased that this week House Republicans once again are going to lead the way on technology. We are going to be moving legislation passed out of the Committee on Ways and Means, which I serve on, legislation to repeal a 3 percent excise tax on telephone calls, a tax that has been in place since the Spanish American War, over a century. It was a temporary tax at that time. Well, that 3 percent tax is a tax today on Internet access, because 96 percent of those who access the Internet use their telephone to go on-line. Let us pass that legislation. I hope it has strong bipartisan support.

I also want to call attention to my colleagues in the House to two important initiatives, legislation designed to increase digital opportunities so that every American family has the opportunity to be part of today's new economy.

I am so proud that private employers have stepped forward to help solve the so-called digital divide. I have many educators that tell me that they find that children who have a computer at home compared to those who do not tend to do better in school. They notice the difference. They believe it is in the best interests of families when it comes to doing homework as well as research where you can access the Library of Congress via the Internet for children to have a computer at home.

I am pleased that Ford Motor Company, Intel, American Airlines and Delta Airlines have stepped forward on their own initiative to provide home computers as well as Internet access as an employee benefit. Thanks to those four companies, 600,000 American working families will now have access to computers and Internet access. That means everybody from the janitor to the laborer to the guy working on the shop floor, up through middle management, up to the CEO, will all have access, universal access to the Internet, meaning their children will have a computer at home to do school work and research for school papers and school projects. That is good news.

Unfortunately, many other companies that would like to do this, like to provide computers and Internet access to their employees, have been advised by their tax lawyers, wait a second; if you do, you are going to cause a tax increase for your employees because the IRS and Treasury Department will call this a taxable benefit.

That is why the Data Act is so important. Let us treat that computer and Internet access as tax free, the same as an employer-provided contribution to your pension, the same as an employer contribution to your health care.

Mr. Speaker, that type of initiative deserves bipartisan support.

TURKISH REGION RECALLS MASSACRE OF ARMENIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 10, the New York Times published an extremely important article on a subject that receives far too little attention, in my opinion, and that is the Armenian genocide. What was particularly interesting about this article was that it addressed the issue of the Armenian genocide from the Turkish perspective, from the point of view of ordinary people living in what were the killing fields.

Many in the Armenian community and their friends and supporters frequently discuss the painful memories of the genocide from the perspective of the victims. The article in last week's New York Times presents the history of the genocide from the descendents of the perpetrators, the people who live on land in what is now the eastern part of the Republic of Turkey but which once was the center of Armenian life.

I include this article for the RECORD from the New York Times, Wednesday May 10. It is entitled ''Turkish Region Recalls Massacre of Armenians,'' by Steven Kinzer.

Every year in late April Members of this House come to this floor to commemorate the Armenian genocide. April 24th of this year marked the 85th anniversary of the unleashing of the Armenian genocide. Over the years, from 1915 to 1923, millions of men, women and children were deported, forced into slave labor and tortured by the government of the ''Young Turk Committee.'' 1.5 million of them were killed.

To this day, the Republic of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the fact that this massive crime against humanity took place on soil under its control and in the name of Turkish nationalism. That is why this newspaper article was so interesting and important.

Let me quote from one woman, Yasemin Orhan, a recent university graduate and a native of the town of Elazig, Turkey. She says, ''They don't teach it in school, but if you are interested, there are plenty of ways you can find out. Many Armenians were killed. That is for sure.'' Ms. Orhan told the New York Times reporter that she had learned about the killings from her grandmother.

Another woman, Tahire Cakirbay, 66 years old, standing at the site of a long-gone Armenian Orthodox church, pointed to a nearby hill and said, ''They took the Armenians up there and killed them. They dug a hole for the bodies. My parents told me.''

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to erase from memory such a monumental crime as the Armenian genocide, but the Turkish government is trying. The Times article notes that in the rest of Turkey little is known of and remembered of the Armenian genocide or of the former thriving Armenian community in what is now eastern Turkey. As Ms. Orhan says, ''They don't teach it in school.'' In fact, what they do teach Turkish young people in schools is a skewed version of their own history.

Not content with merely propagating this false version of history for internal consumption, Turkey is using its resources to endow Turkish Studies Chairs at prestigious American universities, staffed by scholars sympathetic to the Turkish official version of history. They are also using their lobbying resources, including former Members of this House, to lobby against bipartisan legislation in this Congress affirming U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must go on record acknowledging the genocide, and rather than appease Turkey on this issue, we should use our significant influence with that country to get them to do the right thing, to admit what happened in the past, and to work for improved relations with their neighbor, the Republic of Armenia.

The Republic of Armenia is working to build a strong democracy, despite the hostility from Turkey and their ally Azerbaijan, both of whom still maintain blockades preventing vitally needed goods from reaching the Armenian people.

Last week, seven leading Members of the Armenian Parliament came up to Capitol Hill to meet with a bipartisan group of Members of Congress. This week, officials from Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh, as well as from Azerbaijan, will be in Washington for a conference on how to resolve the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

The Armenian people look forward to a bright future of freedom, independence, prosperity and cooperation with their neighbors, but they cannot forget