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S. CON. RES. 37

Expressing the sense of Congress on the importance of promoting electronic commerce, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2001

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress on the importance of promoting electronic commerce, and for other purposes.

Whereas information technologies have spurred additional growth and efficiency for the United States economy, given consumers greater power and choice, and created new opportunities for entrepreneurs;

Whereas an estimated 60 percent of American businesses are involved in electronic commerce;

Whereas in 2000, business-to-consumer electronic transactions were estimated at \$61,000,000,000 and business-to-business electronic transactions at nearly \$200,000,000,000;

Whereas economists have shown that the higher a nation's Internet usage, the faster cross-border trade increases, especially among developing nations;

Whereas cross-border electronic commerce represents a revolutionary form of international trade, one that will provide new opportunities for growth, efficiency, and rising living standards in the United States and overseas;

Whereas in this era of policy development for global electronic commerce, certain policy measures could push Internet users into localized regions of the World Wide Web, significantly reducing long-term opportunities for growth and development;

Whereas the current World Trade Organization (WTO) trade rules, including (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the General Agreement on Trade in Services, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property) apply to e-commerce;

Whereas the growth of international trade via global electronic commerce could be stunted by domestic policies or measures that have the effect of reducing or eliminating competition; and

Whereas carefully coordinated agreements that ensure open markets, broad access, competition, and limited burdens on e-commerce can facilitate growth and development in the United States and overseas: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*
- 3 (1) the Secretary of Commerce and the United
- 4 States Trade Representative should make the pro-

1 motion of cross-border trade via electronic commerce
2 a high priority;

3 (2) the United States should work in good faith
4 with our trading partners to develop a cross-border
5 trade regime that promotes the continued growth of
6 electronic commerce and advances the interests of
7 Internet buyers and sellers in different countries;
8 and

9 (3) the United States should encourage mem-
10 bers of the World Trade Organization to—

11 (A) promote the development of infrastruc-
12 tures that are necessary to conduct e-commerce;

13 (B) promote the development of trade in
14 goods and services via e-commerce;

15 (C) ensure that products delivered elec-
16 tronically receive the most beneficial treatment
17 available under trade agreements relating to
18 similar products that are delivered physically,
19 including market access and nondiscriminatory
20 treatment; and

21 (D) refrain from adopting measures that
22 would constitute actual or potential trade bar-
23 riers to electronic commerce, and ensure that

- 1 all other measures are predictable and trans-
- 2 parent.

