are others, Albert Reynolds, Jean Kennedy Smith—who played very significant roles in moving this process along step by step over the last many years.

I hope that the significance of this event does not get lost in other news today. I would ask our colleagues to take time out and reflect upon the significance of today's announcement. Sometimes we think problems are intractable that we will never be able to solve them—problems of the Middle East, problems of central Asia—that there is no hope of ever resolving civil conflicts. Certainly many put Northern Ireland in that category as well.

Just as the signing of the 1998 Peace Accords created new opportunities for the people of Northern Ireland to find peace, so too does today's announcement by the IRA. But let me stress that it is just that, an opportunity, which can be made the most of or squandered. It can be approached with generosity and reciprocity or it can be denigrated as insufficient. The people of Northern Ireland have suffered for too long. They are desperate to live in peace—desperate for a better life for themselves and for their children. I hope and pray that the political leaders of Northern Ireland will find that spirit of generosity as well as the vision and courage that the people of Northern Ireland expect from them and move forward to fully implement the Good Friday Accords. If that comes to pass, then we will be able to look back on this day—a day otherwise clouded by threats of terrorism—and recognize that there was a ray of light breaking through that cloud.

I hope, Mr. President, that this ray of light can someday shine brightly in all corners of the globe so that matters which can affect us so deeply here at home, in the Middle East, and central Asia can also be the beneficiaries of that light, and that one day we will stand here and talk about the end of terrorism and peace in all quarters of the world where people today believe peace and security are not achievable.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1552

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise in the matter of Internet taxes. As you and others across this country who are following this issue very closely well know, the 3-year moratorium on access taxes as well as the 3-year moratorium on discriminatory taxes on the Internet that had been passed by the Senate and the House 3 years ago expired on Sunday, October 21—just a couple of days ago.

The Internet is important to our economy. The taxes that could be imposed on the Internet would be harmful to the economy. It would be harmful to technology. I think it would be very harmful especially to lower-income families and thereby widen the digital divide. In my view, there is no time to dawdle; there is no time for conference committees.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1552, the House-passed 2-year clean extension of the Internet access tax moratorium currently being held at the desk, and that it be considered, read three times, and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—and I shall object—let me say to the Senator from Virginia, he and I have had long discussions about this subject. I very much respect his views. He is proposing a 2-year extension of the Internet tax moratorium. I proposed an 8-month extension last week, I believe it was. But my 8-month extension to June 30 of next year included an additional proviso, and that proviso, at the end of the legislation, would have had Congress on record saying to both State governments and also to Internet and other remote sellers that we want them to, A, simplify the sales and use tax system and, B, when that is done, be able to allow the remote sellers to collect the sales and use taxes on the sale.

There are two issues here. The Senator from Virginia and I do not disagree on the first. I am not someone who supports taxing access to the Internet. As far as I am concerned, we can extend the prohibition on that forever. I also do not support punitive and discriminatory taxation with respect to Internet sales. So we have no disagreement about that. But however there is a second area of difficulty. The Senator from Virginia raises the first.

If I might continue under my reservation, Mr. President, the first issue is taxation with respect to the Internet. It actually is taxation with respect to remote sales, which is a broader issue. The second is the question, How do you effect a collection of the tax that is already owed on remote sales? As the Senator from Virginia knows, almost no one is paying that use tax and States are losing a substantial amount of money, most of which is used for funding education.

So what I want to do is find a way to solve both problems, not just one. And on the first piece, the Senator from Virginia and I will not find great disagreement. I understand his view and will support his view with respect to extension and prohibiting taxing access, et cetera.

I hope he will similarly support my view that we also ought to solve the other problems State and local governments have, and remote sellers have, for that matter, with respect to the complexity of the sales tax and the collection or lack of collection of sales taxes and use taxes. My colleague from Wyoming is, in fact, working on another piece of legislation on that issue even as we speak. I know he has consulted with the Senator from Virginia.

So, Mr. President, for those reasons, I object to the request by the Senator from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1504

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as long as the Senator from Virginia is here, I ask unanimous consent, again, that we discharge S. 1504 and proceed to it: that it be read a third time, and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Incidentally, in my request is an extension of the Internet tax moratorium. The extension would last until next June 30. The Senator from Virginia wants the extension. I say, yes, let's have an extension. I will not support the 2 years at the moment. I support him until June 30, 2002. I will be prepared to support much longer than that when we are able to reach agreement on the other piece.

The second piece I have in S. 1504 is a statement by Congress saying to both sides, on the second problem: State and local governments, simplify your sales and use tax system. And then it says to them: When you have done so, when you have substantially simplified that system, we will then allow consideration of the opportunity for you to enforce collection of sales and use taxes with respect to remote sellers. It is a two-pronged approach to solve the second problem.

The Senator from Virginia, I might say, addresses the first. I would ask Congress to address the first and second piece of this. I understand it is horribly complicated. But, by the same token, I think we need to address both problems.

So I have objected to the 2-year extension proposed by the Senator from Virginia and would like to continue to work with him on these issues.

I have now proposed and asked consent that we discharge S. 1504, proceed to it, that it be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. As I have indicated, it has an extension to June 30, 2002 and has a paragraph at the end of the legislation that deals with the second important issue as well. I make such a request, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ALLEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I respect the creativity, diligence, and ardor