

have to force a cloture vote on simply proceeding to the bill. There are a handful of people who vehemently oppose any legislation that protects the Internet from taxation. I think that is why this has taken so long to move forward.

Some people do not support the underlying legislation, and it is certainly true that it would protect the Internet from taxation. But what it would not do is create special considerations for the Internet or broadband access. The legislation specifically says we will preempt, or prohibit, any discriminatory taxes, taxes that are specifically addressed to Internet service providers or broadband providers, but those businesses are still subject to State property taxes, sales taxes, capital gains taxes, and all of the other taxes that are levied broadly and uniformly within a State.

Second, the suggestion was made that we are writing State law here, and that is simply wrong. This is an item and an interest and issue of interstate commerce. Just as the Federal Government exercises its prerogative to clarify legislation with regard to other interstate commerce activities, such as shipping, trucking, railroads, or aviation, the national and global Internet broadband communication system that has been established by entrepreneurs over the past 15 years ought to, at some level, be protected from multiple and discriminatory regulations and taxation because of its importance to interstate commerce.

We are writing Federal law here, not State law. I think it is a little bit disingenuous to suggest we are writing State law and to raise concerns about us writing State law, when in fact, when this bill is dispensed with—and I hope passed and signed into law—the very opponents of this bill who said they are worried about us writing State law will come right back to the floor of this Senate and support legislation to authorize States to collect taxes from businesses that do not reside or have facilities or domiciles in those States.

Many opponents of this bill also want the Federal Government to authorize the collection of taxation from businesses outside of their States, which is not only an intervention in States' rights or State laws, but it is effectively an authorization of taxation without representation because the residents of those States will then have to remit taxes to other States in which they do not have a voice.

We will have that debate and discussion. Some will support that process; some will oppose that process. But the very opponents of this bill who raise the concern about writing State law will come back and ask for that very power to be authorized and approved by the Congress because only Congress can give States that power.

I think there is a little bit of a mixed message here looking for an argument that might seem to be useful in stop-

ping or thwarting this bill, but it is an unfair argument and an improper argument.

Some people think that cities, counties, and States should have the right and the ability to tax the Internet. They want those cities and States to tax the Internet. I do not think that is right for consumers, it is not right for America, it is not right for investment, and it is not right for broadband access or deployment. If they want to take the floor and say, We don't support Internet taxes, we are looking out for the interest of these cities and States, I say think again because the whole reason they are raising the issue of the unfunded mandate and supporting a point of order against this bill because of the so-called unfunded mandate is precisely because of those States that are collecting the tax today.

If you support striking this bill on the unfunded mandate, then you are effectively standing up for those States, cities, towns, and counties that are taxing the Internet today. That should not be allowed to continue. It is not good for our economy, and it is certainly not the right incentive to create if we want to ensure broadband reaches throughout the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes debate on the motion to proceed at 2:15 p.m., the debate time be allocated as follows: 20 minutes to Senator ALEXANDER, 20 minutes to Senator DORGAN, 20 minutes to Senator MCCAIN. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate now recess until 2:15 p.m., subject to the previous order.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, what this does for Members and staff, so they fully understand, is this adds 20 minutes to the debate. That is all it does. I ask my friend modify his unanimous consent request to allow me to speak as in morning business, and following my remarks, we will go into our normal Tuesday recess.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I have no objection to that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Nevada.

MILITARY RECORD OF SENATOR JOHN KERRY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the good fortune a week ago this past Saturday to be in Las Vegas. At that time, I spoke about the military record of Senator JOHN KERRY. In fact, I not only spoke about the military record of JOHN KERRY, but I read verbatim from the two citations for heroism he received.

The first citation for heroism he received was presented to him by Admiral Zumwalt. In that citation, it talked about what Senator KERRY did to earn the Silver Star. In effect, what he did is as follows:

Senator KERRY was the commander of a swift boat. A swift boat was a boat that would move very quickly, and they used it in the rivers of Southeast Asia. They were subject to ambushes and attacks, especially before there was something done to make sure the shoreline was free of foliage. They were attacked often.

In this instance, a rocket hit his swift boat, blew all the windows out of it, and, of course, injured people on board the boat. Senator KERRY at that time directed the swift boat to, rather than go away from the battle, go into the battle and go to shore. As soon as he got close enough to the shore to get off the boat, he got off the boat, and before the enemy had time to fire the second rocket, they were killed by Senator JOHN KERRY. This is the reason he was given his first Silver Star.

The Bronze Star was awarded when again his boat was hit from shore. One crewman was blown off the craft in the water. They were taking fire at this time. Senator KERRY, even though he was injured—his right arm was bleeding badly—directed fire toward the enemy, got the swift boat close enough to the man in the water, and he personally pulled the man out of the water.

These are, in synopsis, the two acts of heroism for which Senator KERRY was decorated. He was decorated with the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. He was, of course, also given three Purple Hearts. Purple Hearts are given when someone is injured in battle.

There is no question that what JOHN KERRY did in Southeast Asia, specifically in Vietnam, was heroic. That is why he was given these medals. I think it is outrageous for people to criticize his military service to our country.

It is obvious this administration knows America loves a war hero, and JOHN KERRY is a war hero. So what does the administration do? They do everything they can to denigrate this fine man rather than talk about policy in Iraq, tax policy, environmental policy, economic policy, and health care policy. I think it is wrong that they are doing this, and I think they should get back to talking about the issues that are important.

America knows JOHN KERRY is a war hero. No matter how many times the Vice President speaks at universities criticizing JOHN KERRY's military record, you cannot take away the facts. He was presented by the military authorities of our country two medals for heroism. They speak for themselves.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH).