

tax categories for the Internet is exactly the wrong thing to do.

E-commerce should not be subject to new taxes that do not apply to other commerce. Indeed, without a moratorium, there are 30,000 different jurisdictions around the country that could levy discriminatory or multiple Internet taxes on E-commerce.

Let's not allow the future of electronic commerce—with its great potential to expand the markets of Main Street businesses—to be crushed by the weight of discriminatory or multiple taxes.

Extending the bar on Internet access taxes will help Vermonters end the digital divide and help Vermonters compete for better jobs. Earlier this year, the University of Vermont released a study that found only 39 percent of Vermonters who earn less than \$20,000 a year have personal computers, while 67 percent of Vermonters who earn more than \$35,000 a year own personal computers. And 92 percent of Vermonters who do own a computer are connected to the Internet. We have to close this digital divide for Vermonters to have the skills for the good-paying jobs of the 21st century.

The Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act will bar Internet access taxes and multiple or discriminatory taxes on goods and services sold over the Internet to provide the stability necessary for electronic commerce to flourish, and to help close the digital divide for all Americans.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR ARMENIA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the Miscellaneous Tariff bill, in particular a provision granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations to Armenia.

Armenia is a critical U.S. ally in the Caucasus region and PNTR will significantly strengthen bilateral relations and spur economic growth and prosperity in Armenia. It allows Armenian products continued access to the U.S. market at low tariff rates and will go a long way towards offsetting the impact of Turkish and Azeri blockades that cost Armenia as much as \$720 million annually.

Simply put, this means jobs and rising living standards for Armenians who want to stay in their country and create a better tomorrow for their children. Armenians have worked so hard to overcome the horrors of the past to build a country based on values Americans and Armenians both share: freedom, democracy, open markets, respect for human rights and the rule of law. We should stand behind those efforts.

I am proud to represent over a half million Armenian Americans in California. They are a strong, vibrant community who have enriched the culture of our State and participated in every aspect of its civic life.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting PNTR for Armenia.

RETIREMENT OF CLARE COTTON

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the outstanding contributions made to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by Clare Cotton, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. Next month, Clare will retire after 17 years of impressive service and advocacy on behalf of 55 Massachusetts colleges and universities, their students, and faculty.

In fact, Clare's contributions to higher education reach far beyond our State. His dedication, knowledge, and passion for education have improved the lives of countless students in communities across America. It is difficult to consider any aspect of policy in higher education without thinking of Clare and calling upon his expertise. All of us who know him will miss him greatly.

Clare's leadership in higher education is based on his brilliant intellect, his love of learning, and his sound political instincts. In conversation, he could call up specifics of accounting regulations governing private colleges and universities, refer to undergraduate enrollment trends in science and math, and discuss the impact of both on a pending piece of legislation.

His work in 1997 as a member of the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education is still cited by leaders of all sectors in the field. Need-based aid never had a better advocate than Clare, when he served first as a member and then as chairman of the congressionally authorized Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance during 2002 and 2003.

Whatever the issue, Clare is adept at assessing its political and economic cost to students and institutions, and he has championed colleges and universities and their students for nearly all of his professional life.

His impressive contributions have earned him distinguished status in the national associations of Colleges and Universities, and he has served in leadership positions in two of these organizations. Almost no policy decision could be made without Clare's wise counsel and support.

Clare's brilliant career was very much honed at the local level. From 1977 to 1987, he was president of the Boston-Fenway Program, an urban planning group of 12 non-profit educational, cultural and medical institutions. Long before it became fashionable, Clare helped build an educational consortium that was able to maximize scarce financial resources and enhance both the quality and depth of these landmark institutions in Boston. Community policing in Boston was born through Clare's work with the Fenway consortium.

Earlier in his career, Clare had also been a writer and a journalist. He was director of European Securities Publications in London during the 1960s, and he also served as a correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*.

Anyone in our nation who hopes for a better life and sees college education as the means for achieving it owes Clare Cotton a tremendous debt of gratitude. Our colleges and universities and Congress alike have benefited from his wise counsel, gentle humor, tireless dedication, and skillful advocacy. I wish him a long and happy retirement with his wonderful wife Helen, their four remarkable children, and their nine grandchildren, and I salute him for all he has done so well for Massachusetts and our country.

INTERNET ACCESS TAX MORATORIUM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, the Internet plays a critical role in today's global economy. It allows us to work harder, faster, and more efficiently. With the click of a mouse, we can seal business deals, send birthday cards, and buy cars. We have come to rely on its ability to connect us with people and places around the world. Today Congress cleared an important piece of legislation that will help keep the internet affordable and accessible for all Americans.

Today's passage in the House of S. Con. Res. 146, which amends S. 150, signals the end of months of long and difficult negotiations. I would like to commend my colleagues, Senators ALLEN, WYDEN, ALEXANDER, CARPER, VOINOVICH and MCCAIN for their commitment to this issue. Their hard work has allowed us to pass a fair and reasonable moratorium on internet access taxes. The moratorium will protect all Internet users, regardless of connection platform, while ensuring that states and localities do not lose billions in tax revenue.

The moratorium on internet access taxes is necessary now because broadband technology is still in its infancy in many parts of the country. In Wyoming, we have a number of small towns where Internet service is limited to 14.4 Kbps dial-up service. At that speed, it takes all day to download one song—a song that was legally obtained, of course. The only way we are going to improve the availability of broadband services in places like rural Wyoming is by eliminating unnecessary and burdensome taxation and regulation. Consumers in every part of the country want and deserve internet access. The internet access tax moratorium will make sure they can afford to subscribe to whatever service is available. I am confident that as more consumers spend their hard-earned money on Internet services, the cable companies, telephone carriers, satellite providers and other Internet service providers, ISPs, will invest more of their money in deploying high-speed broadband services.

Renewing the Internet tax moratorium is important for consumers, but it is also a major issue for states and local communities that rely on certain tax revenue from telecommunications.