



NEWS

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South Carolina Passes Resolution Calling on Congress to Ban Internet Access Taxes

Sen. Hawkins demands congressional action.

WASHINGTON- **The South Carolina legislature passed a resolution calling on Congress to ban internet access taxes.** Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, praised South Carolina Senator John Hawkins (R-12) for his aggressiveness in protecting American taxpayers and supporting economic growth. In introducing a resolution urging Congress to pass a clean, technologically neutral and permanent ban on internet access taxes, Sen. Hawkins is using the power of his state legislature to shape congressional debate.

ATR's State Legislative Advisory Project was launched in 2001 in an effort to help give state legislators a louder voice in federal policymaking. In the project's first year, twenty-seven states passed resolutions urging their congressional delegations to support the Economic Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. As of June, 2004, state legislators have already introduced 159 different resolutions in 40 legislative bodies in 25 states and passed 64 different resolutions in 23 legislative bodies in 16 states.

Taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of ATR praised Sen. Hawkins's efforts. **"Americans for Tax Reform applauds Sen. Hawkins on strengthening the voices of state legislators working to bring critical issues to the forefront of congressional debate."**

Sen. Hawkins's resolution acknowledges that without the moratorium on Internet access taxes, the internet would not be where it is today. Unfortunately, the moratorium has expired and permanently eliminating taxes on internet access and discriminatory taxes on internet purchases is the only way to encourage innovation and growth vital to our economy.

"If these Tax-and-Spenders are successful in killing the bill, states and localities will be able to begin taxing everything that is available through the Internet, including e-mail, all sales and services, and even parental filtering software," said Norquist. **"It is the local leaders in the individual states that most closely represent the will of the people and it is up to them to hold Congress accountable to the taxpaying citizens they represent."**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.