

## Eshoo Applauds Seven-Year Extension of Internet Tax Moratorium

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, the House leader in the fight to keep the Internet free of new taxes, voted today for final passage of legislation to extend the current Internet tax moratorium for seven years, the longest extension ever approved by Congress.

"No one should have to pay a tax just to access the Internet," said Eshoo, D-Palo Alto. "Extending the moratorium for seven years is an important step forward to bolster innovation and enhance broadband policy in our country."

Congress first instituted a temporary moratorium on Internet taxes in 1998 to encourage the growth of online commerce. The moratorium was extended in 2001 and 2004 and is scheduled to expire on Thursday, November 1st.

In January, Eshoo, a Member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, introduced H.R. 743, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, to permanently ban Internet access taxes and discriminatory taxes on Internet commerce. H.R. 743 attracted 240 bipartisan cosponsors but was not considered by the full House.

Instead, the House voted on October 16th to approve H.R. 3678, the Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007. It initially extended the moratorium for only four years and included a loophole that would permit new taxes on e-mail and other Web-based services. Eshoo was one of only two Members who voted against the bill on October 16th.

"I opposed the bill because it included only a four-year extension of the moratorium and language that could have opened up the possibility of new taxes on Internet services like e-mail and music downloading," Eshoo said. "I knew we could do better and today we did."

Senate amendments to H.R. 3678 extended the moratorium to seven years and closed the tax loophole Web-based services. The House voted 402 to 0 to approve the Senate amendments and send the bill to the President for his signature.

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