

2003 SENATE RESOLUTION 18

September 29, 2003 – Introduced by Senators LEIBHAM, KEDZIE, SCHULTZ, ROESSLER, STEPP, KANAVAS, WELCH, S. FITZGERALD and ZIEN. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to immediately and permanently prohibit any
2 state from imposing a tax on Internet access.

3 Whereas, the emergence of the Internet as a means of communication has
4 profoundly influenced our society and will pave the way for the global marketplace;
5 and

6 Whereas, Wisconsin is one of only 8 states that imposes a sales tax on Internet
7 access, thereby putting Wisconsin companies that conduct business over the Internet
8 at a competitive disadvantage; and

9 Whereas, the U.S. department of commerce has estimated that wealthy
10 Americans are 20 times more likely to have Internet access, while Hispanics and
11 African Americans are far less likely to have Internet access; and

12 Whereas, there is a growing “digital divide” between those citizens able to
13 access the technology of the new economy and those who cannot; and

14 Whereas, increased access to the Internet will create jobs and contribute to
15 economic development; and

1 Whereas, taxing access to the Internet will make access to the Internet less
2 affordable and therefore less available; and

3 Whereas, taxing Internet access contributes to this condition and unfairly
4 burdens citizens who are least able to afford Internet access; and

5 Whereas, the Wisconsin legislature has previously voted to repeal the state's
6 sales tax on Internet access thus demonstrating its commitment to making sure that
7 Wisconsin is on the leading edge of this new technology and providing incentives for
8 even more access and creative use of the Internet; and

9 Whereas, H.R. 49, which is entitled the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act of
10 2003, has been introduced in the United States house of representatives and will
11 permanently prohibit any state from imposing a tax on access to the Internet; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the members of the Wisconsin senate
14 memorialize Congress to pass legislation that will immediately and permanently
15 prohibit any state from imposing a tax on access to the Internet; and, be it further

16 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to
17 the governor, to each member of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, to the
18 president and vice president of the United States, to each member of the president's
19 cabinet, and to the secretary of the U.S. senate and clerk of the U.S. house of
20 representatives.

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(END)