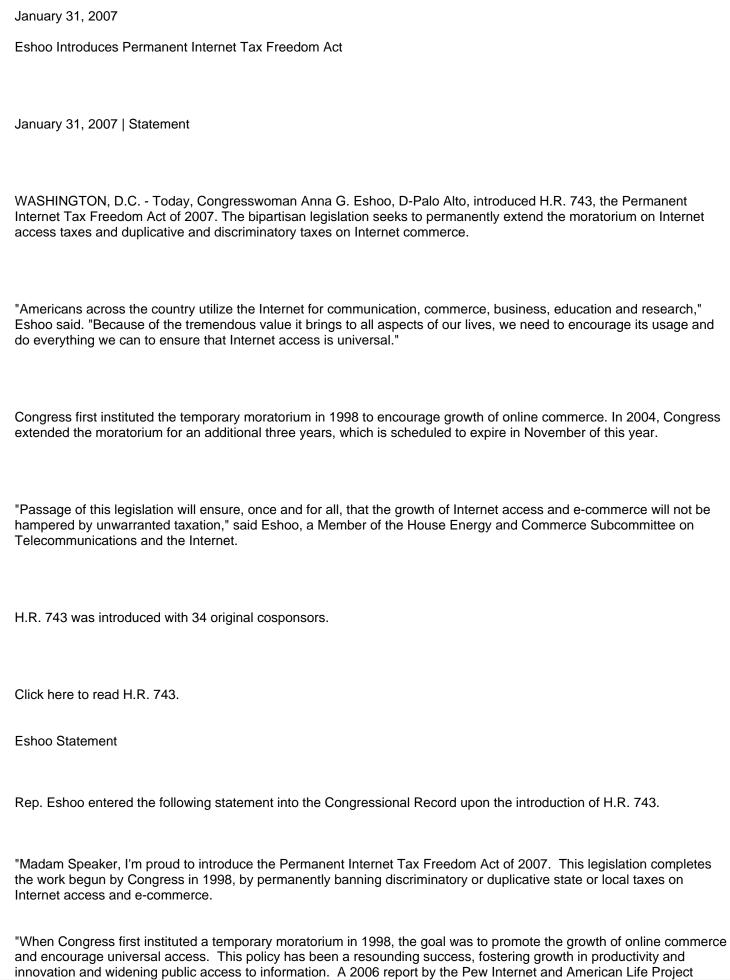
Eshoo Introduces Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act



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demonstrated that 73% of those polled were Internet users, up from 66% in a similar 2005 survey. While Americans use the Internet for a myriad of reasons, e-commerce has particularly flourished and continues to grow at an exceptional rate. In 2006 alone, online retail exceeded \$100 billion, increasing 24 percent over 2005.

"Despite the successes we have seen, there is still much work to be done. Internet usage still lags behind in rural and lower income areas and the United States has fallen from 4th to 16th in broadband penetration worldwide since 2001. In order to reverse this trend, we need to ensure that access costs are kept to a minimum. Prohibiting unnecessary access taxes will help accomplish this goal.

"We also need to allow unfettered access to the products and new services that are only available through the Internet and prevent multiple layers of state and local taxes. Otherwise, we will open the door to a myriad of barriers to Internet commerce that will drive consumers from a web-based marketplace and stifle innovation.

"Congress twice passed extensions to the moratorium in 2001 and again in 2004. Unfortunately, in November of this year the most recent extension will expire. Should Congress fail to renew this moratorium the continued growth and progress in Internet access and e-commerce will be endangered.

"I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my efforts to make this moratorium permanent and finally assure consumers that their Internet access and e-commerce will remain unhindered by discriminatory and duplicative taxes."

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