

HM 883

2006

House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States urging repeal of the federal excise tax on telecommunications.

WHEREAS, the federal excise tax on communications was enacted in 1898 for the purpose of funding the Spanish-American War, and

WHEREAS, the tax was introduced as a temporary luxury tax, and

WHEREAS, telephone service is no longer a luxury, but rather is a necessity for consumers of all income levels, and

WHEREAS, the federal excise tax is regressive, as low-income Americans pay a higher percentage of their income for telephone services than high-income Americans, and

WHEREAS, telecommunications services are the infrastructure upon which new technologies including the Internet depend, and, therefore, the telecommunications excise tax discourages expansion of both the telephone infrastructure and new technologies, and

WHEREAS, the federal excise tax on telecommunications flows into the general fund rather than being earmarked for a specific purpose, and

WHEREAS, Congress passed a repeal of the federal excise tax on telecommunications in 2000, which was vetoed by President William Jefferson Clinton, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

HM 883

2006

29           That the Congress of the United States is requested to  
30 support a repeal of the federal excise tax on  
31 telecommunications.

32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
33 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
34 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
35 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
36 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.