

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2007

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We urge the House to take up several matters of critical importance to our nation's high-tech competitiveness as soon as possible. Each of these has attracted significant bipartisan support in the past, and we're sure each would again pass the House by large bipartisan margins.

First, we should permanently extend the Internet Tax Moratorium before it expires this year. The Internet Tax Freedom Act, originally enacted in 1998, prohibits taxes on Internet access as well as multiple and discriminatory taxes on e-commerce, and it has allowed entrepreneurs, retailers, and consumers to enjoy the full commercial benefits of the Internet. Nonetheless, the Internet Tax Moratorium is set to expire on November 1. Unfortunately, the House has not considered legislation to extend the moratorium. We urge you to not let extraneous issues get in the way of enacting a permanent ban on Internet taxation, which will help to bridge the digital divide and provide certainty for more companies to expand broadband offerings.

As you also know, the 109th Congress passed a modest expansion of the Research and Development Tax Credit. The R&D tax credit is responsible for stimulating U.S. investment, wage growth, consumption and exports, all of which contribute to a stronger and more competitive economy. We need to expand the credit even further and we have a great opportunity to do so in a bipartisan manner when the current credit expires at the end of calendar year 2007.

While making sure that government imposed red tape does not stand in the way of innovation, we should also find a way to ensure that America continues to attract the best and brightest minds from around the world. We must enact legislation that allows U.S. companies to attract and retain high-skilled workers to contribute and excel in the U.S. economy without unnecessary delays and waiting periods. Members on both sides of the aisle have supported this in the past, and we're confident they will again.

Finally Madam Speaker, the House should find common ground and pass electronic medical health records legislation that can be signed into law. As you know, the House passed legislation last year to do this by a 270-148 margin, and there is no reason why we cannot pass similar legislation to help bring our health care system into the 21st Century.

By passing these initiatives, we will continue to work to keep the U.S. the world leader in innovation, and that America's businesses and consumers continue to enjoy the benefits that a robust, innovation-driven economy offers.

Sincerely,

John A. Boehner
Ray Blunt

Bob Goodlatte

Eric Cantor

Edan H. Pastore

Lamar Smith

Tom Davis

Todd Tiahrt

[Signature]

Cathy McMoran-Rodgers

Kirkling

Mary Walden

Prosser

Marsha Blackburn

Jim Jahn

John

Dudkin

Sue Thyjick

Joe Wilson

Mary Bono

Michael T. McCal

Howard Coble

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Ralph W. Hall

R. J. Sayer

Fred Npton
