

By: Representative Lott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES SENATORS  
2 OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI SUPPORT A REPEAL OF THE FEDERAL EXCISE  
3 TAX ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

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

6 WHEREAS, the tax was introduced as a "temporary" luxury tax;  
7 and

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, both houses of Congress passed a repeal of the  
21 federal excise tax on telecommunications in 2000, which was vetoed  
22 by President William Jefferson Clinton:

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
25 THEREIN, That the Legislature of the State of Mississippi requests  
26 our United States Senators to support a repeal of the federal  
27 excise tax on telecommunications.

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
29 furnished to Mississippi's Congressional Delegation and to the  
30 members of the Capitol Press Corps.