

By: Senator(s) White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 569

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONGRESSIONAL
2 DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO SUPPORT A REPEAL OF THE
3 FEDERAL EXCISE 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 SENATE OF THE STATE OF
24 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
25 the Legislature of the State of Mississippi requests our
26 Congressional Delegation to support a repeal of the federal excise
27 tax on telecommunications.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
29 to the Mississippi Congressional Delegation and to the President
30 of the United States, and be made available to the Capitol Press
31 Corps.