

Growth of the Internet has presented individuals with quick access to unlimited information. With an estimated 100 million users connected by year's end, its popularity is unmistakable.

Logically, entrepreneurs are catering to this growth through online sales. We are now seeing the online sale of books, airline tickets, and computer software. New companies are being created and old companies are adapting to provide products and services via the Internet. Companies such as Amazon.com and Dell computers are leading the way. Of course, large numbers of small businesses are focusing on Internet sales as well. Electronic Commerce generated an estimated \$8 billion last year and is projected to generate over \$300 billion in 2002.

Mr. President, we must not underestimate the benefits of such growth. It leads to the creation of new businesses and jobs. And while companies that do this well will reap tremendous rewards, consumers will be the ultimate winners. They will benefit from the convenience and efficiency of electronic commerce. Furthermore, growth in Internet sales will lead to increased competition, bringing consumer choice and lower prices. I, therefore, believe it's vital that we protect this emerging industry.

By placing a two-year moratorium on Internet access tax and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce, the Internet Tax Freedom Act is a strong step in the right direction. I understand that many businesses may not have the resources or may choose not to engage in Internet sales. This bill doesn't discriminate against these companies by creating a tax haven for their competitors. It applies only to those taxes which specifically target the Internet. It, in effect, prevents discrimination against companies engaged in Internet sales.

Mr. President, the Internet Tax Freedom Act is a bipartisan bill which will ensure the vitality of our nation's electronic commerce. Today, I offer my full support for this commonsense legislation.●

STUDENT LOAN FLEXIBILITY

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, if I could have the attention of the distinguished chairman of the Committee, Senator JEFFORDS, I would like to engage him in a brief discussion of a proposal that was raised during Senate consideration of the higher education reauthorization bill.

As the chairman will recall, the managers' amendment offered during Senate consideration included sense-of-the-Senate language regarding the need for greater flexibility in federal student loan programs. Specifically, there were some of us interested in increasing the annual limits on unsubsidized loans while maintaining the aggregate limits, so that students could take greater advantage of federal loans available at lower interest rates. Un-

fortunately, a substantive amendment to advance that proposal was scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) as increasing mandatory spending, and adequate offsets could not be found.

My purpose in raising this matter again today is to elicit from the chairman an indication of his support for this loan flexibility proposal on a substantive policy basis, in the hope that, if we can ever find the additional resources necessary to cover its costs, we might enjoy the chairman's support in pressing for its enactment.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I agree with the Senator from New Hampshire that one of the main obstacles to the adoption of the loan flexibility proposal was the cost implications raised by CBO. In fact, budget considerations prevented us from making a number of beneficial changes in the Act which I know members would have liked to have provided. I am favorably disposed to the loan flexibility proposal on a substantive policy basis, and I am willing to continue to work with the Senator from New Hampshire and other interested parties to gain its enactment.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the chairman's comments and his support and look forward to our continued work together.●

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FL

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the 300th anniversary of the City of Pensacola, Florida. Although November 21, 1998 will mark the 300th anniversary of the continuous settlement of Pensacola, the origins of Pensacola are much older.

In 1559, Don Tristán de Luna y Arellano led the first authorized attempt to colonize what eventually became known as Pensacola. The first attempt at colonization failed, however, and the Spanish were forced to withdraw in 1561. The Spanish did not attempt to colonize the area again until 1698.

Since 1698, Pensacola has flown the Spanish flag, the French flag, the British flag, the Confederate flag, and the American flag over the City. Each flag left its mark upon the City and their historical presence is still evident today. Pensacola honors its heritage each year with the Fiesta of Five Flags celebration.

The presence of the United States Navy has also had an impact upon Pensacola. In the 1820s, a Navy Yard was established in Pensacola. The Navy Yard was closed in 1911, but in a few short years Pensacola was selected as the site of a "Naval flying school." Today, pilots still seek flight training at the Pensacola Naval Air Station which has been called the "Cradle of Naval Aviation."

Pensacola's deep and sheltered bay, sugar white beaches, friendly residents, and Southern hospitality continues to charm visitors today. Over the past

three hundred years, the community has hosted such visitors as General Andrew Jackson and entertainer Bob Hope.

On November 21, 1998, Pensacola will celebrate its 300th anniversary at the site of the former Spanish settlement which today is part of the Pensacola Naval Air Station. This historic event will be commemorated with a celebration which will include a parade and fireworks.

As a United States Senator from the State of Florida, it gives me great pleasure to wish the City of Pensacola a happy 300th anniversary. I wish the City of Pensacola all the best for a fun-filled celebration.●

COSPONSORSHIP OF S. 2426, THE UNIFORMED SERVICES FILING FAIRNESS ACT OF 1998

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for Senate Bill 2426, "The Uniformed Services Filing Fairness Act of 1998." I believe this legislation will work to give much assistance to our men and women abroad in uniform. As we continue to ask for increased responsibilities from our servicemembers, let us not punish these same stewards with unfair tax return deadlines. Due to the remote deployment of many in the uniformed service, these tax deadlines become nearly impossible to meet. In my view, this presents the Senate with an opportunity to provide a measure of relief to servicemembers already stretched to their limits by those repeated and remote deployments.

In my view, this needed legislation is both fair-minded and fiscally responsible. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill.●

SUBMITTING CHANGES TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, section 314(b)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended, requires the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust the appropriate budgetary aggregates and the allocation for the Appropriations Committee to reflect an amount provided and designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act.

I hereby submit revisions to the 1999 Senate Appropriations Committee allocation, pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act, in the following amounts:

	Budget authority	Outlays
Current Allocation:		
Defense discretionary	271,570,000,000	266,635,000,000
Nondefense discretionary	255,634,000,000	265,414,000,000
Violent Crime reduction fund	5,800,000,000	4,953,000,000
Highways	21,885,000,000
Mass transit	4,401,000,000
Mandatory	299,159,000,000	291,731,000,000
Total	832,163,000,000	855,019,000,000