

would provide a variety of tax incentives in 20 "removal communities."—Cost: \$1 billion (House tax bill)

D. *School Modernization*—Bond holders would receive tax credits (a standard amount for all bonds) worth the full interest cost on the bonds, allowing localities to construct or renovate schools without paying any interest. Cost \$5 billion (President's budget proposal)

3. *Small Business and Farmer Tax Relief*

A. *Estate and Gift Tax Unified Credit*—The proposal would accelerate from 2000 to 1999 an increase in the Estate and Gift tax credit (increasing the credit from \$650,000 to \$675,000). Cost: \$1.8 billion (Revised provision from House tax bill)

B. *Deduction for Health Insurance Premiums of the Self-Employed*—Full deductibility is now scheduled to be phased in by 2007. The bill would make the change effective in 1999. Cost: \$5.1 billion (House tax bill)

C. *Agriculture*—The bill would permanently extend "income averaging" for farmers, which is scheduled to expire in 2000. Rather than pay high taxes in good years, a farmer would have the option of paying taxes based on a three year average. Farmers also could reduce their tax burden by applying an operating loss in one year to their taxable income in any one of five past years, or to a future year. Under current law, they can apply it to two past years or to a future year. Cost \$126 million. (House tax bill)

D. *Business Expensing*—Starting in 1999, small-business owners and farmers would be able to deduct up to \$25,000 of the cost of business-related equipment. Under current law, the deduction is limited to \$18,500 and is slated to rise to \$25,000 in 2003. Cost \$1.1 billion. (House tax bill)

E. *Expired Credits*. Several tax credits that expired this year or would expire next year, including credits for research, work opportunity and welfare-to-work, would be extended through Feb. 29, 2000. The credit for contributions of stock to private foundations would be extended permanently. Cost: \$6.2 billion (House tax bill)

4. *Social Security Earnings Test*

Senior citizens ages 65 to 69 would be able to earn up to \$17,000 in 1999 without losing a portion of their Social Security benefits. The earnings limit would gradually rise to \$30,000 in 2002 and \$39,750 in 2008. Current law permits the earnings limit to increase to \$37,948 in 2008, but at a slower pace. Cost: \$550 million (House tax bill)

5. *House Loophole Closer*

The amendment retains a provision in the House bill that closes tax loopholes related to certain liquidations of real estate investment trusts and regulated investment companies.

6. *Tax Reductions Effective When Social Security is Saved*

The bill's provisions would become effective when the Social Security Trust Fund achieves long-range actuarial balance.●

INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT

HUTCHINSON (AND MCCAIN) AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 442, *supra*; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

On page 24, strike line 5 and insert the following:

communications services; and

(F) an examination of the effects of taxation, including the absence of taxation, on all interstate sales transactions, including transactions using the Internet, on local retail businesses and on State and local governments, which examination may include a review of the efforts of State and local governments to collect sales and use taxes owed on in-State purchases from out-of-State sellers.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998

CHAFEE AMENDMENT NO. 3749

Ms. SNOWE (for Mr. CHAFEE) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 2095) to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act Amendments of 1998".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

Section 2(b) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) to encourage, accept, and administer private gifts of property for the benefit of, or in connection with, the activities and services of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Commerce, particularly the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plant resources;"

SEC. 3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—Section 3 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall have a governing Board of Directors (referred to in this Act as the 'Board'), which shall consist of 25 Directors appointed in accordance with subsection (b), each of whom shall be a United States citizen.

"(2) REPRESENTATION OF DIVERSE POINTS OF VIEW.—To the maximum extent practicable, the membership of the Board shall represent diverse points of view relating to conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plants.

"(3) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Appointment as a Director of the Foundation shall not constitute employment by, or the holding of an office of, the United States for the purpose of any Federal law."

(b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—Section 3 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

"(1) AGENCY HEADS.—The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall be Directors of the Foundation.

"(2) APPOINTMENTS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), after consulting with the Secretary of

Commerce and considering the recommendations submitted by the Board, the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint 23 Directors who meet the criteria established by subsection (a), of whom—

"(i) at least 6 shall be knowledgeable or experienced in fish and wildlife conservation;

"(ii) at least 4 shall be educated or experienced in the principles of fish and wildlife management; and

"(iii) at least 4 shall be knowledgeable or experienced in ocean and coastal resource conservation.

"(B) TRANSITION PROVISION.—

"(i) CONTINUATION OF TERMS.—The 15 Directors serving on the Board as of the date of enactment of this paragraph shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms.

"(ii) NEW DIRECTORS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint 8 new Directors; to the maximum extent practicable those appointments shall be made not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

"(3) TERMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), each Director (other than a Director described in paragraph (1)) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

"(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO NEW MEMBER POSITIONS.—Of the Directors appointed by the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph (2)(B)(ii), the Secretary shall appoint—

"(i) 2 Directors for a term of 2 years;

"(ii) 3 Directors for a term of 4 years; and

"(iii) 3 Directors for a term of 6 years.

"(4) VACANCIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall fill a vacancy on the Board; to the maximum extent practicable the vacancy shall be filled not later than 45 calendar days after the occurrence of the vacancy.

"(B) TERM OF APPOINTMENTS TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERMS.—An individual appointed to fill a vacancy that occurs before the expiration of the term of a Director shall be appointed for the remainder of the term.

"(5) REAPPOINTMENT.—An individual (other than an individual described in paragraph (1)) shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms as a Director, excluding any term of less than 6 years."

(c) PROCEDURAL MATTERS.—Section 3 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) PROCEDURAL MATTERS.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Foundation."

(d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 4(c)(5) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3703(c)(5)) is amended by striking "Directors of the Board" and inserting "Directors of the Foundation".

(2) Section 6 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3705) is amended by striking "Secretary" and inserting "Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce".

(3) Section 6 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3705) is amended by inserting "or the Department of Commerce" after "Department of the Interior".

SEC. 4. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE FOUNDATION.—Section 4(a)(3) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3703(a)(3)) is amended by inserting after "the District of Columbia" the following: "or in a county in the State of Maryland or Virginia that borders on the District of Columbia".

(b) INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Section 4(c) of the National Fish