

House Resolution 113

By: Representatives Forster of the 3rd, Loudermilk of the 14th, Lewis of the 15th, Murphy of the 23rd, Parsons of the 42nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the United States Senators from the State of Georgia to support a repeal of the federal
2 excise tax on telecommunications; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, the federal excise tax on communications was enacted in 1898 for the purpose
4 of funding the Spanish-American War; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the tax was introduced as a "temporary" luxury tax; and
- 6 WHEREAS, telephone service is no longer a luxury but rather a necessity for consumers of
7 all income levels; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the federal excise tax is regressive, as low-income Americans pay a higher
9 percentage of their income for telephone services than high-income Americans; and
- 10 WHEREAS, telecommunications services are the infrastructure upon which new
11 technologies including the Internet depend, and, therefore, the telecommunications excise
12 tax discourages expansion of both the telephone infrastructure and new technologies; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the federal excise tax on telecommunications flows into the general fund rather
14 than being earmarked for a specific purpose; and
- 15 WHEREAS, both Houses of Congress passed a repeal of the federal excise tax on
16 telecommunications in 2000, which was vetoed by President William Jefferson Clinton.
- 17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 GEORGIA that the members of this body urge our United States Senators to support a repeal
19 of the federal excise tax on telecommunications.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
2 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the United States Senators
3 from the State of Georgia.