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House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

The Honorable Vanessa Lowery Br

DATE:

September 12, 2011

RE:

Co-Sponsorship of Legislation - Two Resolutions

When we return to session next week, I will be introducing two separate resolutions urging Congressional action. The resolutions are as follows:

The first resolution urges Congress of the United States to establish a framework for online consumer privacy protections.

Currently, federal laws which address consumer privacy protections are outdated when stacked against the modern age of the internet. Several of these current laws cover select forms of communication. However, we are living in an age where technology changes often and obsolete laws can lead to negative consequences that can ultimately stifle innovation that this country desperately needs. This resolution will urge Congress to adopt a framework with clear privacy protection principles that avoids a one-size-fits all approach.

The second resolution urges Congress to pass legislation that will create a uniform national framework on digital commerce.

This endeavor should help to protect consumers from multiple and discriminatory taxes and provide certainty and uniformity for state and local governments in determining which jurisdiction can tax digital transactions. At this writing, state and local taxes are based on 20th century sales transactions that should be updated to align with our 21st century digital economy. Absent a national framework, multiple states and, possibly local governments, could claim the right to tax one digital transaction. Unfortunately, this could place a consumer at risk for multiple taxations that could discourage digital commerce and, again, negatively affect our economy.

I firmly believe both of these resolutions are instrumental in making Congress aware that more needs to be done in helping to protect our consumers and our economy. If you would like to co-sponsor either of these resolutions, please contact Takesha Latham in my office at (717) 783-3822 or via email at Tlatham@pahouse.net.