

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0652L.011

2 **Whereas**, the federal excise tax on communications was enacted in 1898 for the
3 purpose of funding the Spanish-American War; and

4 **Whereas**, the tax was introduced as a "temporary" luxury tax; and

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6 **Whereas**, telephone service is no longer a luxury, but rather a necessity for
7 consumers of all income levels; and

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9 **Whereas**, the federal excise tax is regressive, as low-income Americans pay a
10 higher percentage of their income for telephone services than high-income Americans; and

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12 **Whereas**, telecommunications services are the infrastructure upon which new
13 technologies including the Internet depend, and therefore the telecommunications excise tax
14 discourages expansion of both the telephone infrastructure and new technologies; and

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16 **Whereas**, the federal excise tax on telecommunications flows into the general fund,
17 rather than being earmarked for a specific purpose; and

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19 **Whereas**, both Houses of Congress passed a repeal of the federal excise tax on
20 telecommunications in 2000, which was vetoed by President William Jefferson Clinton:

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22 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
23 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate

24 concurring therein, hereby request the members of the United States Congress to support a repeal
25 of the federal excise tax on telecommunications; and
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27 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
28 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each
29 member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.