

Select Committee Reauthorized Through the 111th Congress

Washington, DC – On Thursday, January 15, 2009, Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Chairman of the House Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence, named Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) as Vice-Chair of the Select Committee. The Select Committee, which was reauthorized through the 111th Congress in early January, learned during our over 50 hearings last Congress that the climate crisis is impacting a number of areas which extend beyond traditional energy and environmental policy, including: national security, public health, transportation and building construction.

As Vice-Chairman, Blumenauer will work closely with Chairman Markey in setting the agenda for the Select Committee and stand-in for the Chairman in his absence. The Select Committee is focused on increasing Congressional and public understanding of global warming and energy independence.

“Earl Blumenauer is the definition of a leader on energy and global warming issues,” said Chairman Markey. “He is thoughtful, passionate, and demands action on the most pressing issues of our time. I am fortunate that he has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair at this critical time for global warming and energy legislation.”

Rep. Blumenauer is also a member of the House Ways and Means and Budget Committees, where he has been a leader on energy and environment issues. As a former member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, one of Rep. Blumenauer’s main priorities as Vice-Chair will be to further examine the relationship between transportation and climate change.

“Global warming is one of the most serious challenges facing our civilization today, and I am honored that Chairman Markey has given me this opportunity to become even more deeply engaged in these issues,” stated Rep. Blumenauer. “The Select Committee will play an important role in examining the myriad of issues that touch climate change, from transportation policy to the tax code to financing a greener economy. I look forward to working with Chairman Markey to ensure that these issues remain at the forefront in the 111th Congress.”

The Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence was established by the U.S. House of Representatives in March of 2007 to investigate, study, make findings, and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, technologies and other innovations; intended to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign sources of energy and achieve substantial and permanent reductions in emissions and other activities that contribute to global warming.

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