

**Washington, DC—** Today Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), a member of the Ways and Means and Budget Committees, issued the following statement after the announcement of an economic stimulus package:

“A critical priority of mine has been addressing our nation’s economic problems. As unemployment rises and families struggle to pay for their healthcare and heating bills, we must get cash into the hands of those who need it most and will spend it back into the economy. I appreciate the Speaker’s work on the package, which provides broad-based relief for lower and middle-income families.

“I am, however, disappointed that the package does not contain food stamps or unemployment benefits, two provisions that would have quickly and effectively spurred the economy. Removing these provisions underlines the misplaced priorities of President Bush and his allies in Congress. By allowing the process to work and encouraging the public to weigh in, I would hope that we could make this package better.”