

Washington, DC – Today Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore) issued the following statement in response to the President’s veto of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Health and Iraq Accountability Act:

“When the House and Senate voted last week to set a withdrawal date, we were reflecting the desire of Americans who want us to wind down the presence of U.S. troops who are stuck in the midst of a religious civil war. Last night the President vetoed this responsible bill – ignoring the desire of both Americans and Iraqis. He vetoed the funding he requested, a responsible timetable for withdrawal, and increased accountability of the Iraqi government.

“As the mismanagement of the war continues, and the devastation it is wreaking on Iraqis and Americans becomes clearer every day, I remain firmly committed to bringing this tragedy to an end.

“Today I voted to override the President’s veto. More importantly, I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress to fulfill our constitutional responsibilities of providing checks and balances so that the President can no longer unilaterally follow this reckless path against the wishes of the American public.”

Congressman Blumenauer, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Budget Committee and Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, has been a vocal opponent of the Iraq war from the start. In January he introduced H.R.663, the “New Direction for Iraq Act of 2007,” a comprehensive piece of legislation requiring the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq, a new diplomatic offensive to stabilize Iraq, aggressive efforts at oversight and accountability, and a new approach towards reconstruction.