

Washington, DC – In recognition of Earth Day, Congressman Blumenauer (D-Ore), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Budget Committee and new Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, released the following statement:

“We can no longer wait for the consequences of global warming to become worse and, at some point, irreversible. As a member of the new Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, I am optimistic to be part of a new Congress which is proactively and constructively working to reverse global warming and contend with the global changes that we already know will occur.

“Using tremendous amounts of energy is not a sign of progress, but rather a sign of inefficiency and wastefulness. If we pay now for the extra costs associated with extreme energy savings, in just a few years, businesses and individuals will reap the environmental and economic benefits. Indeed, there is a reason that smart developers and businesses are building and buying highly energy-efficient products: it saves money.

“Whether it is plug-in hybrid technology, renewable energy development or energy-efficient appliances, the global warming challenge and our response to it represent an unparalleled opportunity to usher in a new world economy. Our success in this venture will profoundly affect both our nation’s competitiveness and the survival of the planet as we know it.”