

Washington, D.C. – Late yesterday Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore), a member of the Budget Committee, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Climate Change, introduced the Rural Wind Energy Development Act, H.R. 1772. Co-sponsored by Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), Congressman Rick Renzi (R-AZ), Congressman John Hall (D-NY), and seven additional House members, the bill would help individuals by providing an investment tax credit for installing a wind turbine, which creates clean, renewable energy.

“The Rural Wind Energy Development Act offers an incentive for homeowners, farmers and small businesses to install turbines that provide clean energy and generate added income,” said Congressman Blumenauer. “It’s pro environment, pro business, and a smart way to diversify income.”

Specifically, the bill provides a tax credit of \$1500 per ½ kilowatt of capacity for small wind turbines, which are defined as 100kw or less of capacity. A single turbine can provide up to an additional \$2,000-\$4,000/year in farm income.

“This credit would give a tremendous spark to our corner of the green energy industry and to all the individuals out there hoping to buy a small wind turbine for their homes or farms,” said Robert Preus, of Abundant Renewable Energy, a wind turbine manufacturer in Newburg, Ore. “This would also be very big news for U.S. manufacturing jobs.”

The Rural Wind Development Act has also been introduced in the Senate by Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO), Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND). The legislation is strongly supported by the American Wind Energy Association.