Portland, OR – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D – Ore.) issued the following statement today, after the indictment of Republican majority leader in the US House of Representatives, Tom DeLay. DeLay was charged earlier today by a Texas grand jury for a single count of criminal conspiracy stemming from allegations that he helped funnel over $190,000 in illegal corporate contributions to election campaigns in his home state of Texas.

"We shouldn't pass judgment until Congressman DeLay gets his day in court, but the charges that have been levied against him are extremely significant given a pattern of questionable practices by DeLay and his associates for years. It is part of a disturbing trend of ethical lapses by those in power in Washington, D. C. Hopefully, one positive development is that this change of leadership may finally give us the opportunity to deal with critical policy issues, and not politics on the floor of the House."