

Washington DC – Congressman Earl Blumenauer’s (D-Ore.) bill to recognize May as “National Bike Month,” cleared a major legislative hurdle yesterday, as the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously adopted the measure. H. Con. Res. 145 can now be considered by the full House of Representatives as early as next week.

The League of American Bicyclists has celebrated May as National Bike Month since 1956. Sponsors of the bill hope that by recognizing May as “National Bike Month,” they will be able to highlight bicycling as a one of the most efficient modes of transportation.

“Bicycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, most efficient, and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exists,” Blumenauer said when he introduced the bill earlier this month. “Cycling helps ease congestion on our roads and reduce environmental pollution while allowing Americans of all ages to incorporate exercise into their everyday lives. In an age of high energy prices, overcrowded roads, and a growing obesity epidemic, biking is more important to the well being of our communities than ever before.”

Blumenauer’s bill was introduced on May 5th with bipartisan support and is now co-sponsored by 32 other members including Transportation and Infrastructure ranking member Rep. James Oberstar (D – Minn.). Blumenauer is the co-founder of the Congressional Bike Caucus. His “Conserve by Bicycle” amendment was incorporated into the Energy Policy Act (H.R. 6) passed by the House of Representatives last month. He also introduced the Bike Commuter Act (H.R. 807) in February to change the Transportation Fringe Benefit of the tax code to include bicycle commuters.