

Washington DC – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) yesterday introduced a resolution to recognize May as “National Bike Month.” 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. “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.”

With this resolution, Congress would honor the enormous role bicycling has had in the United States, and join with the bicycling activists in officially recognizing Bike Month. This recognition would provide an opportunity to promote the benefits of cycling, appreciate those in the cycling community, and to encourage bicycle safety, supporters say. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation. There are over 57 million adult cyclists in the United States, 5 million of whom choose to commute to work by bike.

National Bike Month would provide the opportunity to recognize the significant impact of this noble invention and publicize to inform others of the healthy, environmental, efficient, and neighborhood-friendly form of transportation.

“Congressional recognition of bicycling as a popular recreational and everyday activity sends an important signal to the American people,” said Andy Clarke, Executive Director of the League of American Bicyclists. “Bicycling enjoys broad support and is a benefit to individuals, the community and the nation as a whole.”

Blumenauer’s bill, H Con Res 145, was introduced with bipartisan support and is co-sponsored by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member, Congressman 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. 1052) in the 108th Congress to change the Transportation Fringe Benefit of the tax code to include bicycle commuters.

Blumenauer Introduces Legislation Honoring “National Bike Month”

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