

Portland, Ore. –Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Senator Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) will host a trade forum on **Monday, May 2 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Buckley Center at the University of Portland.**

Trade is an integral part of Oregon's economy with exports from the state totaling over \$11 billion in 2004. At the same time, there are deep concerns about the nation's growing trade deficit which hit a record monthly total of \$61 billion in February 2005 as well as concerns about ensuring adequate environmental and labor protections in developing countries.

This year Congress will debate a range of trade issues, including an extension of the administration's trade promotion authority, U.S. participation in the World Trade Organization, and a regional trade agreement with Central American (CAFTA). The lawmakers hope to use the forum as an opportunity to hear various perspectives and discuss how trade and globalization are affecting Oregon and the world.

The forum will feature an economic overview by Joe Cortright, an economist and Vice President of Impresa, Inc. and two additional panels of speakers. The first panel will include Tim Nesbitt, President of the Oregon AFL-CIO, Bill Wyatt, General Manager of the Port of Portland, Dusty Kidd, Vice President of Compliance for Nike, Melika Carroll, Trade Policy Advisor for Intel and Mr. Gawain Kripke, Senior Policy Advisor for Oxfam America. The second panel includes Thea Lee, Assistant Director of Public Policy for the AFL-CIO, Camille Hukau, representing the Hood River Growers Association, Tom McCoy of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, Ronald Ragen, Chairman of Oregon's International Trade Commission and Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps.

WHO: Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Senator Gordon Smith
Invited Speakers

WHAT: Trade Forum

WHEN: Monday, May 2
9:00 a.m. to Noon

WHERE: Buckley Center
University of Portland