

Washington, DC – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) introduced today the “Post Office Community Partnership Act.” This bill, if passed, would ensure that the US Postal Service consults with residents and obeys local zoning ordinances and regulations before siting new Post Offices, which they are currently not required to do.

“The Postal Service is one of the few areas of government that touches every American every day,” Blumenauer said. “The Postal Service must partner with local communities by following the laws that apply to everybody else and allowing for community input.”

Communities and neighborhoods across the country have been subjected to Postal Service decisions that have negatively impacted service and livability. This bill provides communities an opportunity to be notified of Postal Service plans in advance, which will allow for interaction in the decision-making process between local government officials, the public, and the Postal Service.

The Act also addresses the need for the Postal Service to abide by a community’s plans for growth management, land use, traffic management, and environmental protection. In past years, there have been several instances in which the Postal Service has been unwilling or unable to build new facilities or make changes to existing facilities in a way consistent with local community plans.

Blumenauer introduced the bill Tuesday evening with 35 bipartisan cosponsors. “Last year, Congress failed on acting expediently to pass comprehensive postal legislation that included provisions from the Post Office Community Partnership Act,” Blumenauer said. “I am hopeful that this hesitation will not be repeated in the 109th Congress. Congress has the opportunity to set the tone for the Postal Service and federal government to become a full partner in the livability of our communities, leading by example so our families are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.”