

Washington, DC – In the wake of Ambassador John Bolton’s resignation as United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) reaffirmed his support for the appointment of outgoing Congressman James A. Leach (R-Iowa) as Bolton’s successor. Congressman Blumenauer and Congressman Jim Walsh (R-NY) have been urging Members of Congress to sign a letter to President Bush, recommending Leach’s appointment. So far, 50 Members have signed the letter, which will be delivered to the White House on Friday.

“Jim Leach is the most skilled, most qualified person for the job,” said Congressman Blumenauer. “I have worked closely with Jim and I know he’s the best person to help make the United Nations more effective at the things that matter.”

Leach began his career as an aide to then-Rep. Donald Rumsfeld (R-Ill.) and is a former Foreign Service Officer who served at the United Nations under then-Ambassador George H.W. Bush. During his 30-year career in Congress, Leach served as Chairman of the Banking Committee and the International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. Representing Iowa’s 2nd district, Jim Leach lost his re-election bid last Tuesday and will not be returning to Congress in January.

Currently, the following Members of Congress have co-signed the Blumenauer-Walsh letter (text below): Reps. Neil Abercrombie, Tom Allen, Tammy Baldwin, Earl Blumenauer, Sherwood Boehlert, Madeleine Bordallo, Leonard Boswell, Rick Boucher, Sherrod Brown, Lois Capps, Julia Carson, Mike Castle, Donna Christensen, Joe Crowley, Elijah Cummings, Peter DeFazio, John Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, John Duncan, Eni Faleomavaega, Sam Farr, Barney Frank, Wayne Gilchrest, Charles Gonzalez, Ruben Hinojosa, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Marcy Kaptur, Ron Kind, Jim Kolbe, Dennis Kucinich, Barbara Lee, Sandy Levin, Dave Loebsack (Member-elect), Carolyn Maloney, Jim Marshall, Betty McCollum, Jim McDermott, Jim McGovern, Jim Moran, Bill Pascrell, Donald Payne, Thomas Petri, Bobby Scott, Jose Serrano, Christopher Shays, Ike Skelton, Adam Smith, Ellen Tauscher, Mark Udall, and Jim Walsh.