Washington, DC – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) will speak on a panel moderated by Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne on Tuesday, November 14 at the Falk Auditorium at the Brookings Institute in Washington DC. Other panelists include Jonathan Rauch, columnist with the National Journal, and Kevin O'Leary, a Senior Research Fellow with the Center for the Study of Democracy. The discussion will focus on ways that the Internet and technology can be used to bridge the gap between the political elite and the average voter, and how the 2006 election campaign dramatized citizen discontent across party lines. The program will take place from 2:00-4:00 pm.

Congressman Blumenauer is committed to the importance of citizen engagement and an advocate for using new technology to deepen the connections between voters and elected officials. He has held several E-Town Hall meetings to interact with constituents and advocates, and used blogging to deliver real-time comments and reflections as Election Night results unfolded.