

Washington DC – The U.S. House of Representatives this week approved legislation authored by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) recognizing May as “National Bike Month.” The League of American Bicyclists has celebrated May as National Bike Month since 1956. Blumenauer hopes that recognizing May as “National Bike Month,” will 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 honors the enormous role bicycling has had in the United States, and joins with the bicycling activists in officially recognizing Bike Month. This recognition will 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.

“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 resolution, H.Con.Res.145, was approved unanimously by the House of Representatives on Tuesday, July 25.

Blumenauer is the co-founder of the Congressional Bike Caucus. His “Conserve by Bicycle” Amendment was incorporated into the Energy Policy Act signed into law last year. He also introduced the Bike Commuter Act to change the Transportation Fringe Benefit of the tax code to include bicycle commuters.