

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, in the face of another disappointing employment report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) called on the administration and leadership in the House of Representatives to end its economic obstructionism and join Democrats in promoting policies that will jump start the economy and put America back to work.

“The administration has lost 1.6 million jobs over the past four years,” said Blumenauer. “The leadership in the House has given us four years of failed economic policies and missed opportunities.”

“Furthermore, almost 90 percent of the new jobs created pay an hourly wage that is lower than the national average,” continued Blumenauer. “And 35 percent of the new jobs created since last August are temporary jobs or in low-paying domestic industries.”

One of those missed opportunities to enact legislation to boost the economy was the failure to reauthorize the federal transportation funding bill, which expired last year. Blumenauer supports a bi-partisan \$375 billion transportation funding bill which would mean an almost 72 percent increase in Oregon’s highway and transit funds. If enacted, the legislation would create over 9,000 new jobs for Oregon. However, President Bush threatened to veto the bill and the House leadership refuses to bring it to the House floor for a vote.

“There are between 20,000 and 50,000 jobs that are created for each billion dollars of transportation investment,” Blumenauer noted. And this is an investment that has a huge return beyond simply family-wage jobs. Each dollar that is invested back in our communities under this legislation will be spent in rebuilding America’s crumbling bridges, revitalizing neighborhoods and enhancing the environment.”

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released its monthly review of America’s employment situation today. Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, 1.6 million private sector jobs and 2.7 million manufacturing jobs have been lost. With 18,000 manufacturing jobs lost last month and anemic job creation across the board, the administration has failed to create one new net job over the past four years, and is the first administration since Herbert Hoover to see a net job loss.

Congress adjourns this week, despite a long list of unfinished business requiring it to return for a “lame duck” session following the November elections.

Blumenauer Faults Administration for Disappointing Job Creation Numbers

Thursday, 07 October 2004 19:00
