Washington, D.C.– Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) issued the following statement on the *Taxpayer Protection Against Wasteful Energy Credits Act* sponsored by Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX):

"As a co-chair of the newly formed Green Scissors Caucus, I applaud Rep. Doggett's leadership on reforming this expensive and environmentally harmful subsidy.

"The synthetic fuel tax break is a perfect example of the wasteful spending that the Green Scissors Caucus was formed to address. It is one of a series of unaffordable subsidies for fossil fuel companies contained in the energy bill that is currently stalled in the Senate. According to Friends of the Earth, this tax credit will cost taxpayers $2.8 billion over the next five years. There is little evidence that synthetic coal is any cleaner than ordinary coal, which contributes to acid rain, air pollution, and global warming gases.

"Congress should be working to promote subsidies that will decrease our dependence on foreign oil without causing harm to the environment, or providing merely short-term benefits."