

**WASHINGTON, DC** - On Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) will address the 5,000 urban, rural, and regional planners coming to our nation's capitol for the American Planning Association's (APA) 2004 National Planning Conference. The five day conference, April 24-28, will focus on over a hundred topics including: affordable housing, homeland security, downtown redevelopment, wildlife and ecological conservation, Smart Growth, suburban revitalization, and water issues.

"I have made it my goal in Congress to ensure the Federal government is a better partner in making our communities more livable; making our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure," commented Blumenauer. "The American Planning Association and its state and local affiliates have a huge role in promoting livability through high-impact, inexpensive solutions to some of society's most costly problems.

"The 2004 National Planning Conference, designed for practicing planners, elected officials and engaged citizens, is a unique opportunity for activists to come together to discuss, plan and learn the best avenues to promote more livable communities."

Blumenauer will deliver the opening session address Sunday morning, April 25th:

**8:30 AM-10:00 AM**  **Address 2004 National Planning Conference**  
**Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave**