

Washington, DC — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today that his proposal for a land exchange between the United States Navy and the United Parcel Service (UPS) has cleared both the House and the Senate as part of the Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1588). The legislation will allow UPS to expand its Swan Island facility and move the U.S. Naval Reserve Facility to Gresham.

“This provision is a great example of how the federal government can create good partnerships with business and local communities,” said Blumenauer. “The land exchange will facilitate the expansion of UPS, assist the Navy’s recruiting efforts, and bring important jobs to our region’s struggling economy.”

The legislation, which is included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Department of Defense Authorization Bill, will allow UPS to acquire the 13.3 acre Naval Reserve Center adjacent to the main UPS facility on Swan Island. In exchange, UPS will give the Navy an 18-acre parcel of land in Gresham’s Southshore Corporate Park, an industrial park located at NE 195th and Riverside Parkway. UPS has also agreed to provide new buildings for the new Reserve Center and to pay for all moving costs incurred by the Navy. The Navy will not incur any costs in the trade.

“We couldn’t be happier with the ease and speed of this agreement,” stated Rich Merullo, District Manager for UPS. “We can expand our facility and increase employment in Portland and the Navy gets a new, larger facility to better serve their people. We appreciate Congressman Blumenauer shepherding this through Congress. This is an example of government and business working well together.”

The exchange will add 66 full-time Navy personnel to the approximately 925 reservists who already drill monthly at the Gresham facility. Gresham’s economy will benefit from new residents, additional housing demand, and new construction jobs at the planned onsite recruiting center.

Mayor Chuck Becker said, “We are thrilled with this win-win situation. It means more jobs for both Gresham and Portland. We really appreciate that Congressman Blumenauer did this, and on a timeline that was so quick.”

Blumenauer proposed the land exchange at the request of both the City of Gresham and UPS. The exchange was approved by the Navy last year, but it required special Congressional

Blumenauer Announces Gresham Land Exchange

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approval. The House version of the Fiscal Year 2004 Department of Defense Authorization Bill had already been drafted, but Senator Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) added it to the Senate version of the bill that was approved in May.

The President is expected to sign the bill into law