

Portland, Ore. – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) issued the following statement today following the approval by Multnomah County voters of Measure 26-48:

“The approval of this measure gives us breathing room, but we have to keep moving forward. Fixing our budget problems will require a long-term state funding solution. It will require those of us locally to cooperate and continue to ensure the highest value for our tax dollars. All of us, whether private citizens or Members of Congress, whatever our public or private capacity, have to redouble our efforts to find a permanent and long-term state funding solution.

“The next step is to stabilize the state’s revenue free fall. I would hope the Legislature will consider my proposal to convert the Kicker into a meaningful “Rainy Day Fund.” My proposal gives voters control by requiring their approval before any funds in the account are accessed. Not only would voters approve setting it up, they would have to vote in favor of any withdrawal from the Rainy Day Fund. Something that is truly an emergency facing the state is important enough to engage the voters in finding a solution”