

WASHINGTON, DC---Today, U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) participated in a press conference on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol to protest the subsidies to polluting oil, nuclear and coal companies in the Energy Bill. Different versions of the Energy Bill were recently passed in the House and Senate and the conference committee will begin to resolve these differences today.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer issued the following statement on the Energy Bill:

"I came to Congress determined to help the federal government become a better partner in promoting livable communities: to make our families safe, healthy, and economically secure. Government needs to lead by example, set the tone and follow through. The energy bills, which the conferees will be deliberating this summer, do not set a good example on issues of the environment or the budget.

"We need to have an energy bill that moves us away from dependence on polluting and dangerous forms of energy like oil and coal, which are becoming more and more fiscally and environmentally challenging to obtain. The United States has only 3% of the recoverable supply of the world's oil, and much of it is under ecologically important areas of land. The House energy bill focuses entirely too much on continuing to develop this source of energy. In the course of a few generations, we have nearly used up the Earth's entire supply of accessible petroleum.

"The energy conferees should not report out a bill that continues to give billions of dollars and tax breaks to already established and polluting forms of energy. Instead, Congress should encourage the development of clean and renewable sources of energy like wind, solar, and geothermal energy---this is where the future of this country's energy production lies."