

WASHINGTON, DC--Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) released the following statement on Bush's proposed \$2.1 trillion federal budget for the fiscal year 2003:

"The budget process is now starting in earnest as the details of administration's plans start to come into focus. I am encouraged by some elements in the Administration's proposal, such as funding for homeland security, rewarding federal agencies on a results oriented basis and eliminating some wasteful earmarking. My priorities for the budget cycle ahead are:

- Assuring that the huge increases in the defense budget include honoring our commitments to veterans and their families, environmental cleanup of military waste and toxins, and military efficiency.

- Working with the Oregon congressional delegation to deal with our unique needs that result from Oregon having the nation's highest unemployment rate.

- Keeping promises made to America's seniors by ensuring that the programs they depend on are not the next casualties of the war on terrorism. These include the promised prescription drug benefit, protecting social security and Medicare and caring for the medical needs of veterans and their families."

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's work in Congress, visit his web site at <http://www.house.gov/blumenauer/>.