

Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer issued the following statement in response to the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak:

“Today’s announcement that Hosni Mubarak is stepping down is long overdue. Since the widespread protests began in Egypt more than two weeks ago, it has been clear that the Egyptian people demanded better of their government than the repressive Mubarak regime.

“The United States’ bargain with Mubarak has been tenuous and inconsistent with our nation’s values. Now, an appropriate role for the U.S. will be backing a balanced caretaker government that sets the stage for free and fair elections once political parties have had time to form after decades of oppression. We must also support Egypt’s strong and continued adherence to its peace agreement with Israel.

“Now is also the time to rebalance our aid to Egypt by focusing on its people and their economic development, rather than the military. We owe it to the brave men and women of Egypt and to our own history to fully embrace peaceful and democratic reforms. Since I have been in Congress, I have had deep reservations about our military aid to Egypt. We have treated this aid like an entitlement of \$1.3 billion a year, and over \$30 billion during the 29-year span of the Mubarak regime. This has not only fomented the ire of many towards the US, but has delayed the reforms that I now hope will begin. Let this be one of many steps towards developing a more consistent and effective foreign policy.

“This may be a turning point in the Arab world. This is true for the Egyptian government and I hope it will be true for US policy. We should support democratic institutions in words *and* actions by establishing a consistent and defensible position in our dealing with other nations. President Obama took a step in the right direction by urging Mubarak to step down, but he must also be clear about how we move forward and continue to emphasize our strong support for true democratic reforms.”