This morning, Congressman Blumenauer attended two events that celebrate job opportunities in North Portland.

The first event marked the completion of three vital transportation projects (Ramsey Rail Yard, Leadbetter Overcrossing and North Lombard Widening) and the commencement of a fourth (South Rivergate Rail Yard Expansion). Thanks to $50 million in rail upgrades to the Rivergate industrial district in North Portland, goods can now be moved more quickly and safely. A more efficient rail system that eliminates delays and bottlenecks is creating expanded opportunities for exports, greater resources for manufacturing, and, of course, new jobs for the region. These upgrades were helped in part by funding from the last Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

Tom Imeson, Port of Portland; Scott Moore, Union Pacific Railroad; Congressman Earl Blumenauer; Gail Achterman, Oregon Transportation Commission; State Representative

Tina Kotek; Portland Mayor Sam Adams; Greg Guthrie, BNSF Railway

Next, Congressman Blumenauer toured the MEMC manufacturing facility. This company, which manufactures parts for solar technology, moved to Portland in 2007 and has created approximately 120 new jobs at various skill levels thanks in part to the renewable energy manufacturing tax credits in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.