

Congressman Blumenauer addressed the Council on Foundations and the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers' annual "Foundations on the Hill" day yesterday. Much of the address focused on the challenges facing the foundation community as Congress inches toward tax reform. Mr. Blumenauer's speech also highlighted the incredible opportunity for the foundation community to start a public dialogue on the major issues facing America. He cited, for instance, the incredible work done by the Rockefeller and Surdna foundations on transportation policy – an issue with wide-ranging effects on our communities and our health – and he highlighted a similar opportunity to broaden the discussion on farm policy.

In a later meeting with the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust and Philanthropy Northwest, organizations based in and serving the Pacific Northwest, Mr. Blumenauer emphasized the role that foundations have in shaping public discourse, and noted that, with politics as polarized today as they ever have been, the foundation community can create a safe space in which to craft thoughtful policy.