Monday at the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) conference in Anaheim, California, Congressman Blumenauer affirmed his support of wind power energy. Directly speaking to the wind power industry, his speech identified a broad interest group: “there is a vast coalition that is forming on your behalf: environmentalists, unions, students, campus powers, community of faith, progressive business people, all who cannot only lend their voices to your cause but also their wallets.” Blumenauer commented he was proud to represent people devoted to reducing their environmental impact and stressed the importance of affordable energy policy, intended to confront the problems of climate change while creating jobs and a sustainable industry.

The most specific concern at the conference regarded the Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) curtailment of wind energy production. BPA's recent decision to curtail wind power in "overgeneration" situations elicited a strong backlash from the wind power industry. Blumenauer joined in the criticism, urging BPA to consider short and long term solutions. He also called for Congress to frame energy issues in the long-term and to amend the Federal regulatory process to more performance driven policies.

AWEA
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THE HONORABLE EARL BLUMENAUER