

On October 10, Congressman Blumenauer visited East Portland to hear from a number of groups about their challenges and priorities.

The first stop was a visit to David Douglas High School, where the Congressman met with David Douglas Superintendent Don Grotting, DDHS Principal John Bier, and Assistant Principals Sharon Webster, John Murray, Mark Haner, and Charlene Bassine. Along with cuts to federal and state education funding, the most pressing issue is how to help students from so many different cultures get a good education. More than 30% of DD HS students are non-native English speakers; more than 32 different languages are spoken at the school. Yet funds to continue helping these students continue to dwindle. After the Congressman toured DDHS with Student Body President Tanner Adrian, he stopped by a History Class to answer students' questions about President Obama, the state of the economy, and the future of federal college loans.



Congressman Blumenauer then attended an event to mark milestones in the Johnson Creek Flood Plain Restoration Project. The City of Portland, Oregon Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are working cooperatively to reduce the frequent flooding that often closes SE Foster Road and damages businesses and homes. Restoring the natural floodplain will help to keep citizens out of harm's way and save taxpayer dollars in cleaning up after a flood occurs.



photo by Bruce MacGregor

At lunch, the Congressman met with members of the Midway Business Association, the Gateway Area Business Association, and the East Portland Chamber of Commerce, where the discussion focused on the difficulties small business owners face in these time of economic and political uncertainty.



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