PORTLAND –Rep. Earl Blumenauer released the following statement regarding the verdict in the case of Oregon National Guard soldiers and KBR, Inc:

Today's verdict in the defense contractor KBR trial, brought by a dozen Oregon Army National Guard soldiers, is an important milestone. I've met with these brave soldiers and hearing their ordeal made me heartsick. They have clearly been damaged as a result of their service and negligence on the part of the contractor.

It is critical that those who have been abused receive all the help possible in trying to get their lives back in order and further protect their health. However, this verdict is not just about helping those who have suffered, but also sends a strong message of accountability. Much of the support for our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan relies on private-sector contractors. It is therefore absolutely essential that support services like those managed by KBR be provided at the highest quality possible and with consequence if not. Those who put their lives on the line in service of this country deserve no less.