

EARL BLUMENAUER
THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1502 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4811
FAX: (202) 225-8941

DISTRICT OFFICE:
729 N.E. OREGON STREET
SUITE 115
PORTLAND, OR 97232
(503) 231-2300
FAX: (503) 230-5413

website: blumenauer.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Statement for the Record
Congressman Earl Blumenauer
October 3, 2016

I rise today to recognize October as National Community Planning Month. This year's theme, "Civic Engagement," acknowledges that thoughtful local planning cannot happen without meaningful community involvement. National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to recognize the essential role that planning plays in creating communities of lasting value.

Planning is the formal process of envisioning, mapping, and guiding how a community will look, grow, and define itself—its characteristics, attributes, and identity. As our communities continue to change and evolve, planners work to ensure that new developments are designed and built in harmony with existing surroundings. Planners carefully balance the needs and desires of residents against the challenges presented by physical, economic, and social change.

Planners strive to give citizens choices. From the types of homes we live in to how we choose to get around, planning helps ensure that we address the needs of everyone. A diverse and vibrant community is one that offers transportation and housing choices that are equitable and sustainable.

In my home state of Oregon, our commitment to planning became an official part of our state policy structure in 1973 with the passage of Senate Bill 100. We developed a strong planning program with nineteen Statewide Planning Goals, including promoting citizen involvement, stimulating economic development, and preserving ocean resources. Over forty years later, the "Oregon Story" of economic growth, sustainability, and deliberate development is as compelling as ever. I've worked very closely with the planners that have written that story and guided our region's growth, integrating statewide policies with the needs and interests of local communities.

As founder of the Congressional Livable Communities Task Force and Co-Chair of the Congressional Bike Caucus, I've sought to bring that understanding to Congress. From rebuilding and renewing America's infrastructure, protecting natural and urban resources, to supporting programs that enhance public health, we must find ways to improve the federal partnership with those who are engaged in the day-to-day work of creating livable communities. Planners are the gatekeepers of that partnership, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting National Community Development Month.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".