



Representative Earl Blumenauer

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

As a component of his support for the role the military can play in promoting livable communities, Congressman Blumenauer has undertaken a national effort to address the problems of UXO, the explosive waste left behind on formerly used defense sites. These unexploded bombs and shells create an extremely hazardous threat that litters the landscape at over a thousand locations across the nation. There is a legacy of former bases, arsenals, and training ranges from Martha's Vineyard to Camp Bonneville in metropolitan Portland contaminated with UXO. An April 2001 General Accounting Office report cites Department of Defense estimates showing that DOD's liability for training range cleanup alone could exceed \$100 billion.

KEY ACTIONS BY CONGRESSMAN BLUMENAUER IN THE 106TH CONGRESS:

- Spearheaded a letter to Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen calling for line items in the FY02 Administration budget for UXO response and research. Fourteen other Members signed the letter and it resulted in a line-item for research and development in the President's budget.
- Spoke numerous times on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives urging his colleagues to support higher spending levels for UXO cleanup.
- Hosted a briefing for the Congressional Livable Communities Task Force on the role of the military in a livable community with the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Environmental Security, the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations, and other Department of Defense officials

KEY ACTIONS BY CONGRESSMAN BLUMENAUER IN THE 107TH CONGRESS:

- Leading the effort to gain additional FY03 appropriations for UXO cleanup and for research and development by the Department of Defense.
- Introduced free-standing legislation, H.R. 2605, the Ordnance and Explosives Risk Management Act, laying out policy guidelines for dealing with UXO. Two of H.R. 2605's sections were included in the FY02 Defense Authorization.
- Keynoted Capitol Hill events hosted by the National Association of Ordnance Contractors and the American Council of Engineering Companies.
- Organized a field trip with the Army, other federal and city agencies, press, and other legislators to Spring Valley, an area in Washington, DC still heavily contaminated by chemical weapons experimentation that took place there during World War I.
- Provided leadership that resulted in a hearing before the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee to highlight the need for increased funding for UXO cleanup.

For more information on this topic, please contact Rebekah Cook in the DC office at (202) 225-4811 or Hillary Barbour in the Portland office at (503) 231-2300, or check out our website at <http://www.house.gov/blumenauer>.

**Position
Information**