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TRADE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3703

Give Your Constituents a Healthy Alternative to Big Oil!
Support H.R. 4722, the Active Community Transportation Act

Supported by over 30 national organizations, including: Rails to Trails Conservancy, Transportation for America, the Outdoor Industry Association, America Bikes, Bikes Belong, Smart Growth America, Environment America, the American Planning Association, Safe Routes to Schools, the American Public Transportation Association, the American Institute of Architects, Rails to Trails Conservancy, the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, the Trust for America's Health, the National Association of Realtors

Dear Colleague:

As your constituents look for ways to decrease their dependence on oil and increase their physical activity levels at the same time, one easy thing for them to do is replace daily driving trips with walking or biking. Ninety percent of Americans wish their community was more walkable, but without sidewalks, bike lanes, or even crosswalks, it is often dangerous - or at the very least difficult - for people to choose active transportation modes. The Active Community Transportation (ACT) Act of 2010 will help communities provide basic infrastructure to give their constituents healthy transportation options that also reduce our dependence on oil.

Half of the trips taken in the United States today are within a 20 minute bicycle ride, and a quarter of all trips are within a twenty minute walk, so there are plenty of opportunities for Americans to incorporate walking and biking into their daily lives. Studies suggest that this will help us save over \$260 billion a year in health care costs, due to a decrease in air pollution and obesity related diseases. In addition, if Americans were to replace an hour of driving each day with an hour of walking, we'd reduce our oil consumption by over 30%.

Americans have made it clear that they will walk and bike if these modes are made safe and convenient. However, our nation has failed to invest in adequate pedestrian and bicycle networks to make active transportation a viable choice for routine travel. It is time for the Federal government to support infrastructure investments that make walking and biking safe and convenient for all Americans. The ACT Act will help communities fund transportation projects, such as bike lanes and sidewalks, that improve community vitality, reduce global warming pollution, boost public health, and create jobs.

If you have questions or wish to cosponsor the legislation, please contact Tyler Frisbee on my staff at x54811.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer, Member of Congress



H.R. 4722, the Active Community Transportation Act of 2010

Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon ■ www.blumenauer.house.gov

Supported by: Transportation for America, America Bikes, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the Outdoor Industry Association, the League of American Bicyclists, Environment America, Bikes Belong, Trek, the Alliance for Biking and Walking, Complete Streets, Smart Growth America, the American Planning Association, the Safe Routes to Schools Partnership, the American Public Transportation Association, the American Institute of Architects, the Outdoor Alliance, the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, the Trust for America's Health, the YMCA, the National Association of Realtors

The Active Community Transportation Act would provide sustained concentrated funding to assist communities in implementing active transportation networks.

The Challenge

Communities across the country are realizing the importance of encouraging active lifestyles, for the health of their citizens, the environment and the economic vitality of the community. As only 68% of Americans are licensed drivers, transportation options for those who don't have access to a car, generally the elderly and the young, are especially important. Given that one quarter of all trips taken by car in the United States could be accomplished with a twenty minute walk, it would not be difficult for Americans to choose active modes over driving. A survey done by the National Association of Realtors in 2007 suggests that 90% of Americans wish their cities were more walkable. Active transportation also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution—research estimates that increasing the percentage of walking or bicycling trips by just a few percentage points would decrease the amount of greenhouse gas emissions by 33 million tons per year.

Americans will walk and bike if these modes are made safe and convenient. However, our nation has failed to invest adequately in pedestrian and bicycle networks to make active transportation a viable choice for routine travel. It is time for the federal government to support infrastructure investments to make walking and biking safe and convenient for all Americans. Investing federal dollars to create walkable and bikeable communities is a cost-effective way to create jobs while building transportation infrastructure.

What this Legislation Would Do

The Active Community Transportation (ACT) Act of 2010 establishes a \$2 billion competitive grant program spanning five years within the Department of Transportation. The competitive grant program will provide concentrated funding for communities to create active transportation networks that provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and bicyclists. By creating a competitive program, the ACT Act will reduce earmarks and ensures that the active transportation programs that receive funding are comprehensive, strategic and the best use of limited taxpayer dollars. Communities will receive between \$5-\$15 million for 3-5 years, depending on their level of demonstrated need and readiness.

The Active Community Transportation Act provides concentrated, long term funding to communities that are prepared to provide healthier, cost-effective, environmentally friendly transportation options.

The Active Community Transportation Act has over sixty cosponsors.

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's Livability agenda, contact Tyler Frisbee in DC at (202) 225-4811, or Meeky Blizgard in Portland at (503) 231-2300, or online at <http://blumenauer.house.gov/>.