

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—*Extensions of Remarks* March 6, 2015

INTRODUCTION OF THE VISION
ZERO ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our communities need to be safer. More than 33,000 Americans die on our roadways each year, yet this is accepted as inevitability. Even more concerning, fatalities of our most vulnerable road users—pedestrians and bicyclists—make up a growing share of those deaths, with pedestrian fatalities increasing 16% from 2009 to 2014. People who die on our streets are disproportionately children, seniors, and people from low income or minority communities. Communities across the country are recognizing that there is only one number of acceptable deaths on our streets: zero. “Vision Zero” is the goal of eliminating all transportation-related fatalities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists and passengers. Cities from New York to San Diego are implementing interagency Vision Zero plans connecting engineering, education, and enforcement, to reach the goal of ending transportation deaths. Congress should encourage this innovative approach to transportation safety, and today I’m pleased to introduce the Vision Zero Act of 2015 with my colleague, Representative BUCHANAN. This bill provides local communities of all sizes with funding and best practices to plan and implement a Vision Zero framework. We should no longer accept bicycle and pedestrian fatalities as harsh reality, and this bill gives us the tools to reverse this trend.