Congressman Blumenauer's Statement for the Congressional Record on the reauthorization of the Patriot Act:

Today I voted against an extension of the Patriot Act because Congress should be refining and narrowing the scope of the Act, not extending it as-is, until 2015.

There are real concerns on both sides of the aisle about granting the federal government too much power with little to no mechanisms for oversight by Congress. We are missing an opportunity in the House for bipartisan reform by rushing this extension to the floor. It's time for a more accountable approach that balances individual privacy with our national defense.

Our intelligence community has the tools necessary to keep us safe without compromising our privacy. This hasty four-year extension is disappointing because the Act could be more effective if it included the auditing requirements for which many in Congress have advocated.