Congressman Blumenauer spoke to farmers, advocates, and “people who eat” at a Friends of Family Farmers inFARMation meeting last night. Friends of Family Farmers’ goal is to promote and protect socially responsible agriculture in Oregon. Blumenauer noted that although the political environment in Washington DC is increasingly toxic, there are allies on both sides of the aisle in the fight to reform farm subsidies, protect clean water, and help farmers and ranchers succeed.

“The full price isn’t in there,” Blumenauer emphasized, speaking on cheap, referring to cheap, highly processed foods. “What is the total environmental cost to the land? What are the health care costs down the road?” He encouraged his audience to become visible advocates in their communities of the benefits of farmers markets, sustainable agricultural practices, and defending federal nutrition programs.

Blumenauer concluded, “If we don’t make this into a political issue, we’re going to get rolled again in the next Farm Bill.”