Congressman Earl Blumenauer joined Portland Public Schools (PPS) Superintendent Carole Smith in celebrating the partnership between PPS and Abernethy School to keep Abernethy's School Kitchen Garden open. Although recent US Department of Agriculture regulations improved the nutritional standards for school menus, they also required new analysis and reporting requirements that increased the work load for PPS Nutrition Services, threatening the future of Abernethy's unique scratch kitchen. Abernethy parents announced their willingness to provide the necessary additional resources; they also offered to provide assistance to other schools who would like to replicate Abernethy's program. Congressman Blumenauer will be heading up a Congressional work group in Washington DC to support these efforts in Oregon and nationwide.

"While New York City had to abandon its innovative Chefs in the Schools program in the face of new regulations, Portland Public Schools and the Abernethy community found a way to keep this important program going," said Congressman Blumenauer. "I couldn't be prouder of everyone involved. We are not going to be just a local model. We are going to work to expand these efforts in Portland and be a resource for other communities across the country."