

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I strongly agree with the comments that my colleague from West Virginia has made regarding the bill and its benefits and deficiencies. Among other things, I appreciate the additional resources included in the bill for community policing, a program which has made such a difference in communities in my district and around the country.

But, I do want to spend a moment speaking about a grave area of deficiency dealing with the Advanced Technology Program. This is one program that promotes partnerships and boosts competitiveness by encouraging innovation. It is worthy of bipartisan support and adequate funding. The partnerships created by the ATP allow the U.S. Government to work with businesses and universities, helping existing technological leaders to leverage their talent and expertise.

I have seen this take place in my State of Oregon. In the last several years, we have watched as the companies--which must match Federal funds--have invested approximately the same amount in ATP projects as they have received from the Federal Government. These recipients are developing broad-based technologies, which will not only make them more competitive globally, but will be creating new industries and new jobs. In Oregon over the last 5 years, 10 Oregon participants have joined in ATP projects. Five of these participants have been small businesses.

For example, Precision Cast Parts in my district is working on developing large-scale industrial gas turbines which can operate at higher temperatures. These higher operating temperatures mean increased fuel efficiency and the option of using a larger variety of fuels.

At Tektronix, over the last 3 years they have been developing the ADVANCED Program, the Advanced Digital Video Network for Creative Editing and Distribution Program, a new technology which allows video to be used just like other electronic data. These programs attract expertise to the region and to the State. And they create new jobs.

I hope we will take another hard look at this program as this bill wends its way through the legislative process. The ATP Program needs to be restored in order for this bill to be worthy of our support.