

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the chairman, for his courtesies and for his eloquence a moment ago when he explained to America what this measure is about. We are talking about American economic competitiveness. We know that the Japanese are spending trillions of dollars, and we are debating here on the floor whether or not we are going to add \$12 billion in order to meet our current priorities.

It is a question of whether or not we are going to support our communities in terms of their livability agenda. It is an opportunity for us to think forward when others are looking back. This budget resolution amendment, if passed, will enable us to look forward as opposed to ducking issues that we know if we avoid are going to be worse 10 years from now.

And I find a little incongruous people talking about the cost of this proposal because this is an investment in our future that will provide a half million additional jobs. I am absolutely convinced it will be self-financing, and if we do not, it will be self-destructing.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his courtesy, and I strongly urge the approval of this amendment.