

US House Of Representatives Blocks AP6 Funding

The US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations has blocked funding for the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate Change, throwing the future of the alliance into question.

The AP6 partners – Australia, the United States, India, China, Japan and South Korea – was formed late last year to develop new technology to combat climate change, as opposed to the emission reduction approach which is at the heart of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Australia has committed \$100 million to the partnership over five years, with the only other country to commit to funding – the US – promising \$60 million.

House members terminated funding for the partnership last week and the White House must now try to secure the money in the Senate.

“There’s every chance a compromise will be reached, but it just shows it’s not a priority for them,” says Australian National University US politics lecturer John Hart.

The House Appropriations Committee has denied \$56 million for the AP6 program to date. Funding for the AP6 was part of the \$21.3 billion Foreign Operations Bill. Only three other programs that were part of the bill were terminated by the administration last week.

White House counsel on the environment Jim Connaughton told reporters he was worried about the failure to secure funding.

“If we don’t get the budget, it will be a great challenge,” he says.

The AP6 alliance – which has been criticised by some climate change campaigners because it contains no targets or timetables to reduce greenhouse gases – met in California in April.

[Source esaa news]