



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

April 7, 2000

S. 1315

A bill to permit the leasing of oil and gas rights on certain lands held in trust for the Navajo Nation or allotted to a member of the Navajo Nation, in any case in which there is consent from a specified percentage interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 22, 2000

S. 1315 would modify the conditions under which the Secretary of the Interior may approve a mineral lease or agreement that affects land owned by one or more members of the Navajo Nation. Under current law, approval of such leases requires the consent of all the individuals that have an undivided interest in a property. This bill would ease that requirement by making the Secretary's approval contingent upon the consent of a percentage of individual owners. The percent required would range from 100 percent for land with 10 or fewer owners to 60 percent for land with more than 50 owners. Once approved by the Secretary, leasing agreements would be binding on all owners of the property, and any receipts from this activity would be distributed in proportion to each owner's interest in the property.

Based on information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would not significantly affect discretionary spending. CBO estimates that implementing S. 1315 would not affect direct spending or receipts, because any income resulting from mineral leasing agreements approved under this legislation would be paid directly to the Indian owners or to the appropriate tribal government. Hence, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to the bill.

S. 1315 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Lanette Keith. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.