



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 10, 2000

S. 2253

Rails to Resources Act of 2000

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on July 26, 2000

SUMMARY

S. 2253 would authorize the President to negotiate an agreement with Canada to create a joint commission to study the feasibility of connecting Alaska's railroads to the rail system serving the rest of the North American continent. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million to fund the commission. In addition, the commission could collect and spend interest on the appropriated funds. Assuming the appropriation of the authorized amount, CBO estimates that \$6 million would be spent over the 2002-2005 period. Because it would not affect direct spending or receipts, the bill would not be subject to pay-as-you-go procedures.

S. 2253 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2253 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes that it would take about a year to reach an agreement with Canada on the commission and to appoint members. We assume the authorized amount would be appropriated by the start of fiscal year 2002 and that outlays would be spread over the life of the commission. The authority to earn and spend interest on the balance in the fund would increase spending by about \$500,000, subject to the availability of the initial appropriation.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

U.S. and Canadian Commission on Railways						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	6	a	a	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	2	2	2	a

a. Less than \$500,000.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2253 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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