



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 4, 2002

H.R. 4622 **Gateway Communities Cooperation Act of 2002**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 24, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 4622 would require federal land management agencies to take certain steps to promote the involvement of local communities in federal land-use planning. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4622 would cost \$50 million over the 2003-2007 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 4622 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. Enacting this bill could benefit those local governments considered gateway communities.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4622 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2002 and that necessary funds will be provided near the start of each fiscal year. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4622 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Estimated Authorization Level	5	8	10	12	15
Estimated Outlays	5	8	10	12	15

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 4622 would require federal land management agencies to take certain steps to involve gateway communities—local or tribal governments that are significantly affected by planning and management decisions regarding federal lands—in federal land-use planning. According to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, under current law, federal land management agencies generally meet many of the bill’s requirements to involve gateway communities in planning processes. Thus, CBO estimates that formalizing those requirements would not significantly affect those agencies’ costs.

H.R. 4622 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to small gateway communities for the costs of participating in federal planning processes, planning and implementing certain transportation and infrastructure projects, and providing public information about nearby federal lands. Because the secretaries do not have authority to make such grants under current law, CBO expects that providing such assistance would require additional appropriations. Based on information from federal land management agencies about the number of gateway communities that might be eligible for grants under H.R. 4622, we estimate that such grants would average \$250,000 per community and that about 200 communities would receive such grants over the next five years for a total cost of about \$50 million, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4622 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this bill could benefit those local governments considered gateway communities.

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