



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 27, 2004

H.R. 4470

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program from fiscal year 2005 to 2010

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on July 21, 2004*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4470 would extend the authorization of appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program through 2010. Under current law, \$20 million is authorized to be appropriated each year through 2005, and enacting this legislation would maintain the same annual authorized funding level for subsequent years. Such funding would be used to support efforts, such as public education projects and restoration projects, aimed at restoring the ecological health of the basin. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4470 would cost \$64 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. (The additional amounts authorized would be spent after 2009.)

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. H.R. 4470 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

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted this year and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2006. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar and ongoing activities. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R.4470 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program						
Authorization Level ^a	2	20	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	9	9	3	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	0	20	20	20	20
Estimated Outlays	0	0	8	17	19	20
Spending Under H.R. 4470 for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program						
Authorization Level ^a	2	20	20	20	20	20
Estimated Outlays	1	9	17	20	19	20

a. The 2004 level is the amount appropriated for that year to EPA to implement the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. The 2005 amount is the level authorized to be appropriated under current law for the program.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4470 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Louisiana and Mississippi, and local governments in those states that participate in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, would benefit from the bill's extension of grants, research, and restoration activities for the watershed area. The governments would incur costs voluntarily.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Susanne S. Mehlman
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Gregory Waring
 Impact on the Private Sector: Amina Masood

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine
 Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis