



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

October 3, 2003

**H.R. 542**

**A bill to repeal the reservation of mineral rights made by the United States when certain lands in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, were conveyed by Public Law 102-562**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 1, 2003*

CBO estimates that H.R. 542 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the bill could result in forgone offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending), but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 542 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Public Law 102-562 directed the Secretary of the Interior to convey to private landowners the surface estate to 640 acres of federal lands in Louisiana. H.R. 542 would eliminate a provision in that law that reserved the mineral rights to those lands for the federal government. In doing so, the bill effectively would convey those rights to the owners of the surface estate.

Conveying the rights to mineral resources could result in forgone offsetting receipts if, under current law, those resources would generate income from federal programs to develop them. According to the Bureau of Land Management, however, the agency currently collects no significant receipts from this land and does not expect to do so over the next 10 years. Hence, CBO estimates that any forgone receipts under H.R. 542 would be negligible.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.