



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 6, 2006

H.R. 2978

A bill to allow the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights recognized under the Fort Peck-Montana Compact for the purpose of meeting the water needs of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 29, 2006

H.R. 2978 would allow the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights with the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Inc. Because the association's water system is interconnected with that of the tribes, such an agreement would be necessary for the association to meet its water needs in accordance with the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2978 would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 2978 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 bill would allow the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, with approval from the Bureau of Reclamation, to temporarily convey water rights to the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association. Any costs the tribes or association might incur to comply with the conditions of the conveyance would be incurred voluntarily.

On January 31, 2006, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1219, a bill to authorize certain tribes in the state of Montana to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights to meet the water needs of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Inc., as reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on January 18, 2006. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and the estimated costs are the same.

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