



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 9, 2006

### **H.R. 3849** **PIC and POPs Conventions and the LRTAP POPs** **Protocol Implementation Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on July 27, 2006*

H.R. 3849 would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to authorize the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement pesticide-related provisions of three international environmental agreements: the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Convention), the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution for POPs (POPs Protocol to LRTAP), and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC Convention). Those agreements are intended to help protect environmental and human health by eliminating or restricting the use of certain pesticides and to provide a means for participating countries to obtain and disseminate information about chemicals that may be imported and exported.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3849 would cost \$5 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Those funds would support additional personnel for EPA. Although the agency currently regulates many of the pesticides that would be affected by these agreements, this legislation would add to its responsibilities. Specifically, EPA would participate in the international process for determining whether additional pesticides should be prohibited or restricted from use under the agreements. The agency would then oversee the process necessary to implement any prohibition or restriction that the United States chooses to pursue. EPA's duties would include issuing public notices following decisions by the committees established under the agreements, issuing reports on the benefits and risks associated with the use of certain pesticides, and developing and enforcing regulations.

Based on information from EPA, CBO estimates that these activities would cost about \$1 million a year, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting H.R. 3849 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of

international treaty obligations. Because this bill would implement three treaties, it falls within that exclusion. CBO has thus not reviewed the bill for intergovernmental or private-sector mandates.

On August 3, 2006, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4591, the Stockholm and Rotterdam Toxics Treaty Act of 2006, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 21, 2006. H.R. 4591 and H.R. 3849 address the implementation of the same international treaties. H.R. 4591 would require EPA to conduct a cost-benefit analysis when deciding whether to prohibit or ban certain chemicals. H.R. 3849 would not specifically require a cost-benefit analysis by EPA in its review of any pesticides under the international agreements. The CBO cost estimates for these bills reflect these differences.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate is Susanne S. Mehlman. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.