



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

July 26, 2006

**H.R. 4653**

**A bill to repeal a prohibition on the use of certain funds  
for tunneling in certain areas with respect to the Los Angeles  
to San Fernando Valley Metro Rail project, California**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
on July 19, 2006*

In 1986, the Congress prohibited the use of federal funds for construction of any segment of the Los Angeles to San Fernando Valley Metro Rail project that would require tunneling through a certain region. The prohibition was in response to a fire, caused by naturally occurring methane gas that was located along a proposed expansion of the rail project. As a result of the prohibition, the local transit agency constructed an alternate expansion. Enacting H.R. 4653 would lift the prohibition, making future proposals involving tunneling in the region eligible for federal funding. Any such funding would be dependent on future Congressional actions. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4653 by itself would have no cost to the federal government.

H.R. 4653 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The bill would provide the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority with flexibility in how it uses certain federal funds.

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