



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 3, 2006

S. 584

Betty Dick Residence Protection Act

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

S. 584 would permit continued occupancy and the use of certain lands within Rocky Mountain National Park. Specifically, the legislation would require the National Park Service (NPS) to extend the lease of 8 acres of public land to Betty Dick. CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

Under a 1980 settlement agreement, Betty Dick's right to lease the land in the Rocky Mountain National Park expired after 25 years on July 16, 2005. However, Ms. Dick remained on the property through the summer season and left for the winter in late October 2005. Recently, NPS has offered Ms. Dick a two-year special use permit (with a future option) to allow her to use part of the property at a monthly rate of about \$317 (based on a five-month occupancy). S. 584 would require the NPS to allow Ms. Dick to lease part of the original property, which includes a seasonal residence and outbuildings, for the remainder of her life at a below-market rental price of \$300 per year.

The NPS currently receives no payments for the property, although it received \$7,500 in 1980 for a 25-year lease. NPS expects that the property could generate around \$6,300 in annual rental receipts if the property was leased at market rates. Under current law, proceeds from rental agreements are available for the agency to spend without appropriation action. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting S. 584 would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

S. 584 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.

On October 7, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 584, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 28, 2005. On May 23, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 432, the Betty Dick Residence Protection

Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 18, 2005. The three pieces of legislation are similar, and the cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.