CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

August 26, 2010

H.R. 5717
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Enhancement Act

As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on July 14, 2010

SUMMARY

H.R. 5717 would authorize appropriations of $5 million for the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a research and education facility on the Front Royal, Virginia, property of the National Zoological Park.

Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 5717 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5717 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, employment, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011-2015
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	3	0	0	0	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 5717 would authorize appropriations of $5 million to pay for a portion of the costs of the planning, designing, and construction of a research and educational facility at the National Zoo's property in Front Royal, Virginia. For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that $1 million in funding authorized for fiscal year 2010 will be provided in fiscal year 2011, along with the amount authorized for that year. Any additional costs for that facility, as well as the costs related to an animal holding facility (also located on that property) would be paid from private donations to the Smithsonian Institution.

In addition, the bill would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to enter into a ground lease for the provision of housing and other services at the facility. Costs of that project would be borne by the leaseholder and by the students and scholars using the facility, rather than the Smithsonian Institution. Although the Smithsonian Institution receives considerable federal support, it is a federally chartered nonprofit organization that also draws on significant private donations for its operations. For those reasons, CBO estimates that the special leasing arrangement would not result in the purchase of the facility by the federal government, and, therefore, would not provide direct spending authority.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5717 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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