



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

August 1, 2011

**H.R. 818**

**A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment  
of repayment contracts between the United States  
and the Uintah Water Conservancy District**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 20, 2011*

H.R. 818 would allow the Uintah Water Conservancy District in Utah to prepay the present value of certain amounts the district owes to the U.S. Treasury for its share of the cost to build the Jensen Unit of the Central Utah Project. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Uintah Water Conservancy District, CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would have no impact on the federal budget. Because the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The Uintah Water Conservancy District is currently paying the federal government about \$227,000 a year on a balance of \$3.9 billion in project construction costs that have been allocated to the district for repayment. However, if the district chose to prepay its debt to the government under the bill, it also would have to pay for additional construction costs—totaling \$7.4 million—that have not yet been assigned to the district for repayment. Information from the district indicates that it would be unable to prepay that additional amount. Therefore, if the bill were enacted, CBO expects that the district would continue to make the annual payments it does under current law and the legislation would have no impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 818 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.

On July 28, 2011, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 808, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 14, 2011. The two pieces of legislation and CBO's cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.