



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 10, 2014

S. 491

Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2013

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on April 3, 2014*

SUMMARY

S. 491 would authorize the appropriation of \$250 million annually for 2015 and 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide brownfields cleanup grants and programs. (Brownfields are properties where the presence, or potential presence, of a hazardous substance complicates the expansion or redevelopment of the property.) Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 491 would cost \$500 million over the 2015-2019 period.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 491 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 491 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2015-2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Cleanup Grants						
Authorization Level	200	200	0	0	0	400
Estimated Outlays	10	170	184	30	6	400
State and Tribal Cleanup Programs						
Authorization Level	50	50	0	0	0	100
Estimated Outlays	3	41	46	8	2	100
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	250	250	0	0	0	500
Estimated Outlays	13	211	230	38	8	500

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 491 will be enacted near the end of 2014 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for brownfields programs.

S. 491 would authorize the appropriation of \$250 million annually over the 2015-2016 period for EPA's brownfields restoration activities. The authorization for this program expired in 2006, but it has continued to receive appropriations each year; \$161 million was appropriated for the program in 2014.

Enacting this bill would reinstate the expired authorization level of \$200 million for brownfields cleanup grants and \$50 million for voluntary cleanup programs by state and tribal governments. Enacting this legislation also would increase the limit for cleanup grants and expand eligibility for grants to certain publicly owned sites and nonprofit organizations. In addition, S. 491 would enable grant recipients to use up to 8 percent of the grant money received to cover administrative costs.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 491 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local and tribal governments would benefit from financial assistance authorized in the bill. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Susanne S. Mehlman
Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell
Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Theresa Gullo
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis