



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 31, 2016

H.R. 5049 **NSF Major Research Facility Reform Act of 2016**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
on April 27, 2016*

H.R. 5049 would direct the National Science Foundation (NSF) to audit its major multi-user research facilities. Those facilities are centers for research in various fields including physics, astronomy, geosciences, engineering, and nanotechnology. In 2015, \$1.1 billion was appropriated to NSF for the operation, development, construction, and maintenance of more than 20 such facilities.

The bill also would authorize NSF to pay management fees as a part of their research awards under certain conditions and would require the agency to provide additional education and training for NSF managers and staff regarding employment protections for persons reporting a possible misuse of government funds.

Based on information from NSF, CBO estimates that conducting the audits required by the legislation would cost about \$2 million annually and \$10 million over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Other provisions would not have a significant cost.

Enacting H.R. 5049 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5049 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 5049 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.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Marin Burnett. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.