



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

January 12, 2012

S. 802

Lake Thunderbird Efficient Use Act of 2011

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on November 10, 2011*

S. 802 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to approve the conveyance and storage of water from other water projects at the Norman Project in central Oklahoma. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have an insignificant impact on direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues or discretionary spending.

The Norman Project—consisting of Norman Dam, Lake Thunderbird, and a pipeline system to pump and convey water—was completed in 1965 and provides municipal and industrial water and flood protection to surrounding communities. In 1966, the operation and maintenance responsibilities for the project were transferred from the federal government to the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District. In recent years, the Lake Thunderbird watershed endured severe droughts, which depleted the reservoir and prompted the bureau and the district to seek additional water sources to supplement the reservoir.

S. 802 would authorize the bureau to approve the conveyance and storage of water from other water projects in Lake Thunderbird. Under the bill, the district would purchase water from Oklahoma City's Atoka Reservoir by accessing the nearby Atoka pipeline, and the district would be required to pay all costs associated with constructing any additional facilities and associated operation and maintenance costs. Based on information from the bureau, CBO estimates that enacting the bill could affect direct spending (through the collection and spending of receipts), but such effects would not be significant.

S. 802 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 Aurora Swanson. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.