



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 17, 2008

S. 2994

Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on July 31, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 2994 would reauthorize the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with nonfederal sponsors, to carry out projects aimed at cleaning up certain areas of the Great Lakes where contamination has settled into sediment at the bottom of the lakes. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$750 million over the 2009-2013 period to EPA for that purpose. In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million over the five-year period for EPA to conduct research on the development and use of innovative methods for cleaning up the Great Lakes.

Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$629 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting S. 2994 would not affect direct spending or receipts.

S. 2994 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$629 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized for each year. Those estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2994 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					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
EPA Funding for Clean-up Projects						
Authorization Level	150	150	150	150	150	750
Estimated Outlays	60	120	138	147	150	615
Research and Development						
Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	2	3	3	3	3	14
Total Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	153	153	153	153	153	765
Estimated Outlays	62	123	141	150	153	629

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2994 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments by extending EPA programs to clean up sediment contamination in the Great Lakes and by continuing an existing grant program to provide public information about such contamination. Any costs those governments might incur, including matching funds, would result from complying with conditions of federal aid.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On August 8, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 6460 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 31, 2008. Both S. 2994 and H.R. 6460 would reauthorize EPA's grant program for the remediation of sediment contamination in the Great Lakes. However, S. 2994 would authorize the appropriation of a smaller amount for research and development activities. This difference between the two bills is reflected in the cost estimates.

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