



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 16, 2017

H.R. 2425 **Public Lands Telecommunications Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 27, 2017

SUMMARY

H.R. 2425 would make most fees collected by the federal government from firms with communications equipment on federal lands available to be spent, subject to appropriation, by federal land management agencies (Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation). Those agencies could use those amounts to carry out certain administrative activities.

Assuming appropriation of the amounts expected to be available under the bill, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2425 would cost \$104 million over the 2018-2022 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 2425 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

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2425 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						2017-2022
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	21	21	22	22	23	109
Estimated Outlays	0	16	21	22	22	23	104

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2425 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2017 and that the amounts estimated to be available under the bill would be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

Under H.R. 2425, any amounts collected by the federal government from firms with communication sites located on federal lands, excluding amounts that can be spent under current law, would be available to cover the costs of planning and managing communications sites. In 2016, the federal land management agencies collected fees totaling \$21 million. Of those amounts, about \$1 million was spent using existing authorities. The remaining \$20 million was deposited in the Treasury. Because CBO expects that similar amounts (adjusted for inflation) would be collected annually over the next five years, CBO estimates that a total of \$109 million would be available to be appropriated under the bill over the 2018-2022 period. Assuming appropriation of those amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2425 would cost \$104 million over that period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2425 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2425 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would benefit state, local, and tribal governments by supporting the development of

telecommunications infrastructure on or near federal lands. Any costs incurred by public entities under cooperative agreements with federal agencies would result from voluntary commitments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Jeff LaFave

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Jon Sperl

Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

H. Samuel Papenfuss

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis