



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 10, 2007

S. 1089

A bill to amend the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act to allow the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects to hire employees more efficiently, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 25, 2007*

The Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act, enacted in 1976, established a regulatory and administrative framework for federal consideration of proposals to build a pipeline to transport natural gas from northern Alaska to the continental United States. Under that act, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects is responsible for coordinating regulatory activities of several federal agencies that have a role in administering such proposals.

S. 1089 would amend current law to provide the coordinator with greater flexibility in hiring staff and retaining services from consultants and temporary workers. The bill also would authorize the coordinator to establish fees that could be spent, without further appropriation, for activities authorized under current law.

Based on information from the office of the coordinator, CBO estimates that enacting S. 1089 would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) from fees paid by sponsors of proposed projects. The magnitude of such fees could vary from less than \$500,000 to a few million dollars annually over several years, depending on the complexity of proposals and the length of time required to administer them. CBO expects, however, that any such fees would be mostly spent in the same year they are collected; therefore, we estimate that any net changes in direct spending under S. 1089 would be negligible for each year. S. 1089 would not affect revenues.

S. 1089 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 Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.