



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 18, 2011

H.R. 872 **Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on March 16, 2011*

H.R. 872 would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states authorized to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits from requiring a permit for some discharges of pesticides authorized for use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Under the bill, public and private entities would no longer need to obtain an NPDES permit for certain discharges of pesticides except in cases where the application of the pesticide would not fall under FIFRA, or in cases where the discharge is regulated as a stormwater, municipal, or industrial discharge under the Clean Water Act. Under a recent court ruling, the requirement to obtain an NPDES permit will become effective on April 9, 2011; at that time, pesticide applications not covered by an NPDES permit will be subject to a fine.

Based on information from EPA, CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Any administrative savings to EPA that might result from issuing fewer permits would be negligible because EPA has delegated the authority to issue most NPDES permits to states.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to H.R. 872 because the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 872 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.

On March 11, 2011, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on March 9, 2011. The two versions of the legislation are similar, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Susanne S. Mehlman. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.