



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 14, 2009

H.R. 3585 **Solar Technology Roadmap Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology
on October 7, 2009*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3585 would authorize appropriations totaling \$2.25 billion over the 2011-2015 period for the Department of Energy (DOE) to support various programs related to solar energy technology. The bill also would require DOE to assess the performance of existing solar power facilities in the United States. Finally, the bill would repeal certain laws related to solar energy research and development.

Based on information from DOE and assuming appropriation of the authorized and necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost about \$1.4 billion over the 2011-2014 period and about \$840 million after 2014. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 3585 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. 3585 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
New Research, Development, and Demonstration Programs						
Authorization Level	0	350	400	428	478	1,656
Estimated Outlays	0	193	325	408	451	1,377
Authorization of Existing Programs						
Authorization Level	0	0	0	22	22	44
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	12	19	31
Solar Facility Assessment						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	0	0	0	0	1
Estimated Outlays	1	*	0	0	0	1
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	350	400	450	500	1,701
Estimated Outlays	1	193	325	420	470	1,409

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3585 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2010 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar DOE programs.

New Research, Development, and Demonstration Programs

H.R. 3585 would authorize the appropriation of about \$2.18 billion over the 2011-2015 period for DOE programs to support the research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies. Of that amount, DOE would be required to spend at least \$1 billion for projects recommended by the Solar Technology Roadmap Committee, which would be established under the bill to develop a long-term plan for the development of solar energy technologies. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost about \$1.4 billion over the 2011-2014 period and about \$800 million after 2014.

Authorization of Existing Programs

H.R. 3585 would authorize the appropriation of \$12 million a year over the 2013-2015 period for a program aimed at developing lower-cost thermal energy storage technologies. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year over the 2013-2015 period for a workforce training program to support the expansion of the solar energy industry. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$31 million over the 2013-2014 period and \$35 million after 2014.

Facility Assessment

H.R. 3585 would require the Secretary of Energy to assess the performance of existing solar power facilities in the United States. Based on information from DOE regarding the cost of similar assessments, CBO estimates that conducting the facility assessment would cost about \$1 million in 2010.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3585 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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