



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 1, 2009

H.R. 515 **Radioactive Import Deterrence Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
on November 19, 2009*

H.R. 515 would prohibit the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), with certain exceptions specified by the bill, from issuing licenses to import certain types of low-level radioactive waste. Based on information from the NRC, CBO estimates that the proposed prohibition would not significantly affect net spending by the agency; any such spending would be subject to appropriation and largely offset by certain fees that the NRC is authorized to collect from regulated entities. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 515 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

The prohibition on issuing, extending, or amending licenses would be a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on importers of certain types of low-level radioactive waste. The cost of the mandate would be the loss in net income to importers. Information from industry sources suggests that the growth in gross revenues from the future import of low-level radioactive waste could be significant. However, those revenues would depend on the amount of waste authorized for import in licenses issued or amended by the NRC in the absence of the bill. Consequently, CBO cannot determine whether the cost of the mandate would exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$139 million in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll (for federal costs) and Amy Petz (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.