



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 8, 2015

S. 611
Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on April 29, 2015*

SUMMARY

S. 611 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually over the 2016-2020 period for the Environmental Protection Agency’s program that provides technical assistance to small public water systems. The authorization for this program expired in 2003, but the program received an appropriation of \$13 million for fiscal year 2015. CBO estimates that implementing S. 611 would cost \$67 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to S. 611 because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 611 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 611 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					2016-2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level	15	15	15	15	15	75
Estimated Outlays	8	14	15	15	15	67

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 611 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2015, that the specified amounts will be appropriated in each year starting in 2016, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the technical assistance program. The legislation would authorize funding for nonprofit organizations to help small public water systems achieve and maintain compliance with national regulations and to support training and engineering evaluations of those water systems.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 611 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Activities authorized in the bill would assist public water systems to comply with national standards for primary drinking water.

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