

Calendar No. 41

106TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
106-16

RIO ARRIBA, NEW MEXICO

MARCH 16, 1999.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 278]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 278) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

S. 278, as ordered reported, would direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico, land and facilities thereon known as the “Old Coyote Administrative Site,” a Forest Service administrative site.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

S. 278 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey land and facilities known as the “Old Coyote Administrative Site,” a Forest Service administrative site, to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico. The land to be transferred consists of one tract of 130.27 acres, and another tract of 276.76 acres. Both tracts of land are managed by the Bureau of Land Management and were withdrawn from entry for Forest Service use. The buildings were vacated in 1993 when the Forest Service moved to its present location. The Coyote Station will continue to be used for public purposes, including a community center and a fire substation. Some buildings will also be available for the county to use for storage and repair of road maintenance equipment, and other county vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 278 was introduced by Senators Domenici and Bingaman on January 21, 1999. Except for one minor, technical change made in S. 278, an identical bill (S. 1510) was considered by the Committee during the 105th Congress. The Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management held a hearing on S. 1510 on March 25, 1998; and the bill was favorably reported, as amended, on May 13, 1998. The bill passed the Senate on July 17, 1998, but no further action was taken in the House.

At the business meeting on March 4, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 278, favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on March 4, 1999, by unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 278.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Old Coyote Administrative Site

Section 1(a) states that the conveyance of property shall occur not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico, subject to the terms and conditions stated in subsection (b), the land including all improvements on the land known as the "Old Coyote Administrative Site," comprising one tract of 130.27 acres, and another tract of 276.76 acres.

Subsection 1(b) clarifies that the consideration for the conveyance shall be: (1) an amount that is consistent with the special pricing program for Governmental entities under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; and (2) an agreement between the Secretary and the county indemnifying the Government of the United States from all liability of the Government that arises from the property. This subsection also states that the lands conveyed by this Act shall be used for public purposes. Finally, this subsection requires that, if such lands cease to be used for public purposes, at the option of the United States, such lands will revert to the United States.

Subsection 1(c) requires that land withdrawals under Public Land Order 3730 and Executive Order 4599 as extended in the Federal Register on May 25, 1989 (54 FR 22629) be revoked simultaneously with the conveyance of the property under subsection (a).

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of the cost of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
 Washington, DC, March 10, 1999.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 278, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Megan E. Carroll.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
 (For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

S. 278—A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to the county Rio Arriba, New Mexico

S. 278 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey about 407 acres of federal land to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico, to be used for public purposes. CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the county would pay for this land, S. 278 would affect direct spending by increasing offsetting receipts. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, CBO estimates that the payment would total less than \$5,000 in fiscal year 2000.

S. 278 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. Purchase of this land would be voluntary on the part of the county.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan E. Carroll. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 278. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 278, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

On, March 8, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requested legislative reports from the Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget setting forth

Executive agency recommendations on S. 278. These reports had not been received at the time the report on S. 278 was filed. When the reports become available, the Chairman will request that they be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill S. 278, as ordered reported.

