

key to unlocking one's own writing skills and letting one's own words take wing.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor this year of S. 514, legislation to reauthorize the National Writing Project. The National Writing Project (NWP) is the only federally funded program that specifically works to improve a student's writing abilities and provide professional development programs in the area of writing instruction for classroom teachers. This program operates on a "teachers teaching teachers" model, meaning that successful writing teachers conduct workshops for other teachers in the schools during the school year to improve overall writing skills. It is critically important that our nation have skilled teachers in the area of writing, and this program goes straight to the heart of that. West Virginia is home to three federally funded National Writing Projects, including programs at West Virginia University and Marshall University.

The act of writing is itself an art, one which not only requires creativity, but one that can also glisten with beauty. Calligraphy, for example, is a beautiful form of writing, very popular in formal invitations and for special events. And while most of us are not gifted calligraphers by nature, we all ought to take a little more pride in the presentation of our writing. A beautifully worded poem or essay can be easily tarnished by poor penmanship. Conversely, good penmanship can enhance the overall beauty of one's writing by simple finishing touches, beginning with the dotting of our i's and the crossing of our t's. It is very easy to become sloppy in one's writing, but we must not forget that appearance does matter, and a good essay that is illegible will have little impact.

Sadly, today's young generation seems to be more happily occupied with a telephone in one hand and a television remote control in the other than with a book or a newspaper. I fear that the entertainment luxuries of the twentieth century have misplaced the old-fashioned art of reading and writing. Computer electronic mail too often has become a replacement for a hand-written thank-you letter to a deserving colleague or peer. Reading from Plutarch's "Lives," Homer's "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," or a Shakespearean play has taken a backseat to video games and Hollywood movies.

I challenge all of us to set higher standards in our reading and writing skills, and to help our young people do the same. Put down the remote control and pick up a good book. Write a poem for a friend on her birthday. Poetry is a wonderful gift—such heartfelt thoughts on paper tend to last much longer than a piece of clothing exhibiting the latest fashion trend. Embrace the English language and take pride in each word that you place on paper—after all, your writing is a reflection of you.

I yield the floor.

CBO COST ESTIMATE FOR S. 1377

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 106-177 was filed to accompany S. 1377, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. I ask unanimous consent that the report which is now available be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the information of the Senate.

There being no objection, the report was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 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. 1377, a bill to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act regarding the use of funds for water development for the Bonneville Unit, and for other purposes.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Hadley, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE, OCTOBER 6, 1999

S. 1377: A BILL TO AMEND THE CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACT REGARDING THE USE OF FUNDS FOR WATER DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BONNEVILLE UNIT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

(As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 22, 1999)

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1377 would have no impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1377 would authorize the appropriation of up to \$60 million for the Secretary of the Interior to acquire water rights for instream flows and to complete certain other projects, if such funds are not needed for the projects currently authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act. Based on information from the Department of the Interior, CBO expects that the department will use all available funds for purposes authorized under current law, assuming appropriation of such amounts. Thus, the bill would neither affect funds already appropriated nor increase the total amount of funds authorized to be appropriated for the Central Utah Project.

The CBO staff contact is Mark Hadley, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CBO COST ESTIMATE FOR S. 986

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 106-173 was filed to accompany S. 986 the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. I ask unanimous consent that the report which is now available be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL

RECORD for the information of the Senate.

There being no objection, the report was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 18, 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. 986, the Griffith Project Prepayment and Conveyance Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Megan Carroll (for federal costs), who can be reached at 226-2860, and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact), who can be reached at 225-3220.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE, OCTOBER 18, 1999

S. 986: GRIFFITH PROJECT PREPAYMENT AND CONVEYANCE ACT

(As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on October 6, 1999)

SUMMARY

S. 986 would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) to convey the Robert B. Griffith Water Project (Griffith Project) to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). The transfer would occur after the SNWA pays about \$121 million to the Bureau to meet its outstanding obligations under an existing repayment contract with the federal government. A substantial portion of the Griffith Project is located on federal land administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management. Under S. 986, the SNWA would retain rights-of-way across this federal land at no cost.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 986 would yield a net increase in asset sale receipts of \$112 million in 2000, but that this near-term cash savings would be offset on a present value basis by the loss of other offsetting receipts over the 2001-2033 period. Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO also estimates that implementing S. 986 could cost up to \$50,000 a year in appropriated funds over the 2001-2004 period. S. 986 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The project conveyance, and any costs associated with it, would be voluntary on the part of the SNWA. The bill would impose no costs on any other state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 986 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				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING ¹					
Estimated Budget Authority	-112	9	9	9	9
Estimated Outlays	-112	9	9	9	9

¹ S. 986 also would authorize additional spending, subject to appropriation, of up to \$50,000 a year over the 2001-2004 period.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, we assume that S. 986 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2000. Based on information from the SNWA and