establishment of an independent state, living side by side with Israel, in conditions of sustainable peace and security.

Surely the aspiration of humanity revolves around achieving the full respect of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The collective vision and effort required to fulfil this massive endeavour demands the contribution of all, to the extent of their capabilities. Cyprus is prepared to play its part from its vantage point in the European Union whilst drawing upon its traditional participation in Fora dedicated to promoting agendas pertaining to these values. This affiliation has been a source of support for us since Cyprus' independence, and its impact not only makes us grateful but has also endowed us with sensitivities that will continue to be an integral part of our approach.

I would like to emphasise how proud we are that Cyprus is now a full member of the European Union. The European Union has outlined an extensive set of priorities for this Session of the General Assembly. As the statement delivered by the Dutch Presidency has delineated these priorities, I will not elaborate on them any further.

This year marks 30 years since the occupation of 37% of Cyprus' territory as a result of the invasion of the island by Turkish troops. It also marks 30 years of relentless efforts by the Greek Cypriots to achieve a just and peaceful settlement, with the support of the international community, to which I would like here to express our deep appreciation.

The Greek Cypriot side has repeatedly demonstrated in the past thirty years, its readiness to move forward by making many painful sacrifices and concessions, while the Turkish Cypriot leadership always lacked the necessary political will. The quest and eagerness of Greek Cypriots for a solution never meant, however, that they would accept any settlement proposed to them nor that they would be ready to embark on an adventure, in all probability condemned to failing, with irreversible consequences.

The latest effort by the UN Secretary-General to solve the Cyprus problem resulted in a Plan, which, by some was described as a historic opportunity to solve one of the longest standing international problems. I will only briefly outline why, despite the hard work invested in the process by all involved, the end product of this effort was judged to be inadequate and fell short of minimum expectations from a settlement for Greek Cypriots.

Firstly, the Annan Plan was not the product of negotiation nor did it constitute an agreed solution between the parties. Secondly, the Plan did not place the necessary emphasis on achieving a one State solution with a central government able to guarantee the single sovereign character of Cyprus. Thirdly, it failed to address the serious concerns of the Greek Cypriot Community regarding their security and effective implementation of the Plan.

In rejecting the Plan as a settlement for the Cyprus problem the Greek Cypriots did not reject the solution or the reunification of their country. They have rejected this particular Plan as not effectively achieving this objective. We remain committed to a solution which will ensure the reunification of the country, its economy, and its people.

We are committed to reaching a solution on the basis of a bizonal, bicommunal federation. However, there are a number of essential parameters the Greek Cypriot Community insist this solution to be founded on. The withdrawal of troops and settlers and the respect of human rights for all Cypriots, the underlying structures for a functioning economy, the functionality and workability of the new state of affairs, the just resolution of land and property issues in accordance with the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, and the respect of the right of return of refugees. To this end, we welcome the recent Pinheiro Progress Report on property restitution in the context of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Simultaneously, it pains me to bring to your attention, Mr. President, that certain provisions of the Annan Plan have encouraged an unprecedented unlawful exploitation of occupied properties in northern Cyprus, something alluded to even in statements by officials of the occupying power itself.

The most paramount feature of any settlement is the ability to install a sense of security to the people. The mistakes of the past must not be repeated. Cyprus must in its future course, proceed without any grey areas with regard to its sovereignty or its relation to third states. If the people feel that their needs have not formed the basis of any solution reached or that the characteristics of this solution have been dictated by the interests of third parties, then this solution will unsurprisingly be bypassed. Indeed, the spirit and practice of effective multilateralism not only encompasses, but also derives from, the comprehension and consideration of local realities and particulars, on which it must then proceed to formulate proposals.

This should not be interpreted by third parties as a lack of will to solve the Cyprus problem. Instead, it must be unequivocally understood that the people who will have to live with this solution are in the best position to judge what is suitable for them, that it is imperative for the people to be called upon to ratify any plans that are drawn to this effect, and that their verdict must be respected.

In the framework of the European Union, and with the aim of promoting reunification and reconciliation, my Government, despite the obstacles placed by the current status quo, is consistently pursuing policies aiming to enhance the economic development of the Turkish Cypriots. While not intended to serve as a substitute for a solution, such policies are in our view the most effective way to foster the maximum economic integration of the two Communities, and increase contact between them, so as to ensure the viability of a future solution.

Responding to the expanding possibilities on the ground, we have intensified our efforts to ameliorate the situation and seek ways to benefit citizens. In this context, my Government has recently proposed the withdrawal of military forces from sensitive areas and refraining from military exercises, the opening of eight additional crossing points across the cease fire line and the facilitation of the movement of persons, goods and services across the Green Line, as well as the extension of the so far unilateral demining process initiated by my Government.

We have also declared our readiness to make special arrangements whereby Turkish Cypriots will utilise Larnaca Port for the export of their goods. Furthermore, subject to the area of Varosha being returned under the control of the Government of Cyprus and to its legitimate inhabitants, we could accommodate the lawful operation of the port of Famagusta.

The Cyprus problem is not always perceived in its correct parameters. The fact remains that this problem is the result of a military invasion and continued occupation of part of the territory of a sovereign state. This fact should not be conveniently overlooked in people's perception, by concentrating on peripheral parameters. Any initiative to solve the problem must have at its core, this most basic and fundamental fact and be based on the premise that international legality must be served and the occupation lifted.

Unfortunately, the fundamentals of the situation on the ground remain unchanged for the past 30 years since the Turkish invasion in Cyprus. This situation is one comprising of severe violations of the most fundamental human rights. The yet unresolved issues of the missing persons, an issue of a purely humanitarian nature, as well as that of the enclaved of the Karpass peninsula, are in themselves an indication of Cyprus' enduring suffering. This should not only point towards the specifics of the solution to be pursued but must also guide our actions with regard to managing the current status quo. For instance, the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), assigned with the task to manage the status quo inflicted 30 years ago, should remain specific to the situation on the ground.

The accession of Cyprus to the European Union, in conjunction with the lack of an agreement on the settlement of the Cyprus problem, in spite of our efforts and our preference for a settlement prior to accession, signifies the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. I firmly believe that the new context defined by the accession of my country to the EU and by the expressed will of Turkey to advance on the European path offers a unique opportunity and could have a catalytic effect in reaching a settlement in Cyprus. Our vocation is to be partners and not enemies.

Hence, in this new era, we plea to Turkey, to join us in turning the page and seeking ways to mutually discover, mutually beneficial solutions to the various aspects that compose the Cyprus problem. The mere realisation that peace and stability in our region serve the interests of both our countries is ample evidence to prove that what unites us is stronger than what divides us.

CBO COST ESTIMATE—S. 2773

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office to accompany Senate Report 108–314, the committee report to S. 2773, the Water Resources Development Act of 2004, be printed in the RECORD. The estimate was not available when the report was filed by the Committee on Environment and Public Works on August 25, 2004.

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

COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires that a statement of the cost of the reported bill, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, be included in the report. That statement follows:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

S. 2773, Water Resources Development Act of 2004, as reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on August 25, 2004.

Summary

S. 2773 would authorize the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to conduct water resource studies and undertake specified projects and programs for flood control, inland navigation, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration. The bill would authorize the agency to conduct studies on water resource needs and feasibility studies for specified projects and to convey ownership of certain Federal properties. Finally, the bill would extend, terminate, or modify existing

authorizations for various water projects and would authorize new programs to develop water resources and protect the environment.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, including adjustments for increases in anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2773 would cost about $2.9 billion over the 2005–2009 period and an additional $4 billion over the 10 years after 2009. (Some construction costs and operations and maintenance would continue or occur after this period.)

S. 2773 also would allow for the spending of certain receipts from hydroelectricity sales associated with Army Corps of Engineers projects for facility planning, operation, maintenance, and upgrades, without further appropriation. Most of the receipts would come from electricity sold by the government's power marketing administrations (PMAs), including the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). This provision also would direct the PMAs to reduce the maintenance component of the electricity rate charged to customers. The bill would convey parcels of land to various nonFederal entities and would forgive the obligation of some local government agencies to pay certain project costs. Finally, the bill would allow the Corps to collect and spend fees related to training courses and permit processing. CBO estimates that enacting those provisions would increase direct spending by $803 million in 2005, $5.3 billion over the 2005–2009 period, and $10.8 billion over the 2005–2014 period. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

S. 2773 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Federal participation in water resources projects and programs authorized by this bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments, and any costs to those governments to comply with the conditions of this Federal assistance would be incurred voluntarily.

Estimated Cost to the Federal Government

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2773 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and the environment) and 270 (energy).

TABLE 1. ESTIMATED BUDGETARY IMPACT OF S. 2773 OVER THE 2005–2009 PERIOD

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	599	623	619	593	604
Estimated Outlays	419	609	614	595	595
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING					
Estimated Budget Authority	1,065	1,071	1,134	1,198	1,311
Estimated Outlays	803	981	1,109	1,170	1,274

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2773 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2005 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

S. 2773 would authorize new projects related to environmental restoration, shoreline protection, and navigation. This bill also would modify many existing Corps projects and programs by increasing the amounts authorized to be appropriated to construct or maintain them or by increasing the Federal share of project costs. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost $2.8 billion over the 2005–2009 period and an additional $4 billion over the 10 years after 2009. For ongoing construction costs of previously authorized projects, the Corps received a 2004 appropriation of $1.6 billion.

For new water projects specified in the bill, the Corps provided CBO with estimates of annual budget authority needed to meet design and construction schedules. CBO adjusted those estimates to reflect the impact of anticipated inflation during the time between project authorization and appropriation of construction costs. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending rates for Corps projects.

Significant New Authorizations. S. 2773 would authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct water resource studies and undertake specified projects and programs for flood control, inland navigation, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration. For example, the bill includes authorizations for enhanced navigation improvements on the Upper Mississippi River at an estimated Federal cost of $1.7 billion and an ecosystem restoration project, also on the Upper Mississippi River, at an estimated Federal cost of $1.46 billion. Another large project authorized by this bill is the Indian River Lagoon project in the Florida Everglades at an estimated Federal cost of $604 million. Construction of those projects would likely take more than 15 years.

Fish and Wildlife Mitigation. Section 1011 would amend the Water Resources Act of 1986 to establish a standard for fish and wildlife habitat mitigation on certain Corps projects. S. 2773 would require the Corps to develop a mitigation plan that restores the same number of acres of habitat that would fully replace the hydrologic and ecological functions that are lost because of construction of a Corps project. For this estimate, CBO assumes that this provision would apply to potential projects that are being studied but have not yet been submitted to the Congress for authorization. CBO estimates this provision would have no significant cost. However, it is possible that the Administration could interpret this provision to be applicable to authorized projects that have not yet begun or completed construction. Under that interpretation, this provision would increase future construction costs significantly.

Deauthorizations. S. 2773 would withdraw the authority for the Corps to build over 55 projects authorized in previous legislation. Based on information from the Corps, however, CBO does not expect that the agency would begin most of those projects over the next 5 years. Some do not have a local sponsor to pay nonFederal costs, others do not pass certain tests for economic viability, and still others do not pass certain tests for environmental protection. Consequently, CBO estimates that canceling the authority to build those projects would provide no significant savings over the next several years.

Direct Spending

Based on information from affected agencies, CBO estimates that enacting S. 2773 would increase direct spending by about $800 million in 2005 and $10.8 billion over the 2005–2014 period. Table 2 presents the direct spending components of the bill. Most of the direct spending under the bill would stem from provisions to allow for the spending of certain receipts associated with Corps projects for facility planning, operation, maintenance, and upgrades without further appropriation.

Improvement of Water Management at Corps of Engineers Reservoirs. Section 1006 of the bill would designate that all receipts associated with Corps projects be spent, without further appropriation, on operations, maintenance, and upgrades at its facilities. The Federal power marketing administrations (including the Bonneville Power Administration) collect receipts from the sale of hydroelectric power at Corps dams. The Corps also collects fees associated with other activities at its projects. Overall, the bill would make available for spending, on average, about $1 billion per year of those receipts. Because those receipts would otherwise be deposited in the Treasury, CBO estimates that enacting section 1006 would increase direct spending by $595 million in 2005 and $9.7 billion over the 2005–2014 period.

The bill specifies how the funds would be spent. Most of the funds, 80 percent, would be spent within the same Corps district from which they are collected. The remaining 20 percent would be available agencywide for any Corps project.

Spending of Receipts Collected by the Bonneville Power Administration. The bill would make receipts collected by BPA from the sale of hydroelectric power at Corps dams available for spending by the Corps. Unlike hydroelectricity receipts collected by the other PMAs, all receipts collected by BPA go into a revolving fund and are spent for operating its electricity system and repaying previous appropriations and Treasury borrowing. Because a portion of BPA's generating revenues from Corps dams are used to keep its system functioning, CBO assumes that only those receipts that would be used to repay previous appropriations and Treasury borrowing, that is, BPA's intergovernmental payments, would be available for spending by the Corps.

Under current law, CBO estimates that BPA's intergovernmental payments will be, on average, about $730 million per year over the 2005–2014 period. Under S. 2773, we assume that such payments would continue to made but would be spent without further appropriation for operations and maintenance at Corps facilities. BPA's Treasury payments fluctuate from year to year based on how much cash is available at the end of each fiscal year (changing water conditions and electricity prices can swing BPA's annual revenues significantly) and the maturities and interest rates of Treasury bonds issued on BPA's behalf. CBO estimates that spending of BPA receipts by the Corps would total $457 million in 2005 and $7.1 billion over the 2005–2014 period.

Spending of Receipts Collected by the Other Power Marketing Administrations. Receipts collected by the Southwestern, Southeastern, and Western Power Administrations from the sale of hydroelectric power at Corps dams are currently deposited in the Treasury. Under this bill, those funds would be spent by the Corps, without further appropriation, for operations and maintenance at its facilities. CBO estimates that spending of PMA receipts by the Corps would total $117 million in 2005 and $2.4 billion over the 2005–2014 period.

TABLE 2. CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING UNDER S. 2773

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING										
Improvement of Water Management at Corps Reservoirs										
Estimated Budget Authority	849	889	959	1,028	1,129	909	1,093	1,100	1,107	1,114
Estimated Outlays	595	792	934	1,000	1,092	965	1,060	1,080	1,104	1,111
Loss of Power Marketing Administration Receipts										
Estimated Budget Authority	173	176	180	184	189	192	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	173	176	180	184	189	192	0	0	0	0
Recreation Fees										
Estimated Budget Authority	34	6	−5	−7	−7	−7	−7	−7	−7	−7
Estimated Outlays	27	13	−5	−7	−7	−7	−7	−7	−7	−7
Land Conveyances and Other Direct Spending										
Estimated Budget Authority	8	*	*	−7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	8	*	*	−7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Changes										
Estimated Budget Authority	1,065	1,071	1,134	1,198	1,311	1,094	1,086	1,093	1,100	1,107
Estimated Outlays	803	981	1,109	1,170	1,274	1,150	1,053	1,073	1,097	1,104

NOTE: * = less than $500,000.

Spending of Receipts Collected by the Corps. S. 2773 also would allow the Corps to spend any proceeds that it collects in grazing fees, shoreline management permit fees, and municipal and industrial water supply fees. The Corps could spend such funds for operations and maintenance at its facilities. CBO estimates that spending of such receipts would total $21 million in 2005 and $288 million over the 2005–2014 period.

Impact on Future Corps Appropriations. By making about $1 billion a year available for operations and maintenance at Corps facilities without further appropriation, the bill could lead to future reductions in the amounts appropriated for such purposes. In fiscal year 2004, the Corps received an appropriation of almost $2 billion for operations and maintenance costs. Enacting this bill could result in a reduction in future appropriations if the Congress chose to maintain total Corps spending at a level similar to the amount appropriated in 2004. For this estimate, however, CBO assumes that Corps appropriations would remain at current levels and that new spending authorized by the bill would be in addition to what is annually made available.

Reduction in the Maintenance Component of Electricity Rates. CBO assumes that section 1006 of S. 2773 would result in an overall reduction in electricity receipts collected by the PMAs. Under current law, electricity sales rates charged by the PMAs are set to recover the cost of generating electricity, including operations and maintenance expenses associated with hydroelectricity generation at Corps projects. Over the 2005–2010 period, the bill would lower the portion of electricity rates charged to PMA customers for Corps-related expenses to 0.22 cents per kilowatt-hour. (BPA rates are explicitly exempted by that provision.)

The PMAs currently charge their electricity customers for Corps-related expenses more than the 0.22 cents per kilowatt-hour that would be mandated by the bill. Such rates range from as much as 1.2 cents per kilowatt-hour to 0.4 cents per kilowatt-hour for the various Corps projects associated with the Western Area Power Administration. CBO estimates that this provision would reduce electricity receipts collected by the PMAs by an average of about $180 million a year, over the 2005–2010 period.

Spending of Recreation Fees. Section 1004 would direct the Corps to establish a new system of recreation fees, including charges for admission to Corps recreationsites and for the use of recreation facilities, visitor centers, equipment, and services. Under the bill, the new fees (which would be based on the value of the admission or service purchased) would replace charges authorized under the more-restrictive fee authority contained in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA), which currently governs the Corps' recreation fee program. The bill also would authorize the agency to provide recreational services through contractors by leasing Federal land or establishing other concession-like arrangements with non-Federal entities. Finally, section 1004 would allow the Corps to retain and spend without further appropriation all recreation user and admission fees it collects under the LWCFA. CBO estimates that enacting this provision would have a net cost of $27 million in 2005 and $21 million over the 2005–2009 period. We estimate the provision would result in a net reduction in direct spending of $14 million over the next 10 years.

CBO estimates that, once the fee authority that would be provided by this section has been fully implemented, Corps offsetting receipts would increase by $7 million a year from the current annual level of about $34 million. (We estimate that the increase would begin in fiscal year 2006 and would initially amount to $4 million to $5 million a year because of delays in determining the market value of similar local recreation opportunities and establishing appropriate fee schedules.) We estimate that the contracting and leasing provisions of this section would have no effect on the budget because such authorities already exist.

CBO further estimates that the authority that would be provided by the bill to spend without appropriation any offsetting receipts earned under the LWCFA would increase direct spending by $27 million in fiscal year 2005 and by $17 million in 2006. After the Corps implements the new fee program mandated by the bill (in mid–2006), no additional receipts would be earned under the LWCFA, and the authority to spend such amounts would no longer be in effect. Because the bill would not specifically authorize the appropriation of, or spending of, any fees collected under the new program, CBO assumes that those recreation receipts would be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury.

Various Land Conveyances. S. 2773 would authorize the Corps to convey certain land in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Missouri. CBO estimates that those conveyances would have no significant impact on the Federal budget.

The bill also would convey at fair market value 13 acres of land and the structures on the land, including a loading dock with mooring facilities, in Alabama. In addition, S. 2773 would convey at fair market value 650 acres at the Richard B. Russell Lake in South Carolina to the state. Based on information from the Corps, CBO estimates that the Federal Government would receive about $7 million in 2008 from this sale.

Arcadia Lake, Oklahoma. Section 5303 would eliminate the obligation of the city of Edmond, Oklahoma, to pay outstanding interest due on its water storage contract with the Corps. CBO estimates that this provision would result in a loss of receipts of about $8 million in 2005.

Waurika Lake Project. Section 5304 would eliminate the obligation of the Waurika Project Master Conservancy District in Oklahoma to pay its outstanding debt related to the construction of a water conveyance project. Due to an accounting error, the Corps inadvertently undercharged the district for costs associated with a land purchase related to the water project in the early 1980's. Under terms of the construction contract, the district is required to pay all costs associated with building the project, including the full cost of the land purchases. CBO estimates that enacting this section would cost less than $200,000 a year over the 2005–2014 period.

Funding to Process Permits. Section 5401 would extend the Corps' current authority for two more years to accept and spend funds contributed by private firms to expedite the evaluation of permit applications submitted to the Corps. CBO estimates that the Corps would accept and spend less than $500,000 during each year of this extension and that the net budgetary impact of this provision would be negligible.

Training Funds. Section 1003 would allow the Corps to collect and spend fees collected from the private sector for training courses. CBO estimates that the Corps would accept and spend less than $500,000 annually and that the net budgetary impact would be negligible.

Intergovernmental and Private-Sector Impact

S. 2773 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Federal participation in water resources projects and programs authorized by this bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments, and any costs to those governments to comply with the conditions of this Federal assistance would be incurred voluntarily.

Previous CBO Estimate

On September 3, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2557, the Water Resources Development Act of 2003, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 23, 2003. CBO estimated that enacting H.R. 2557 would increase direct spending by $32 million over the 2004–2013 period. In addition, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimated that implementing H.R. 2557 would cost about $2.6 billion over the 2004–2008 period. The differences in the cost estimates stem from different levels of authorized funding.

Estimate Prepared By: Federal Costs: Julie Middleton, Lisa Cash Driskill, Deb Reis, and

Mike Waters; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller; Impact on the Private Sector: Karen Raupp.

Estimate Approved By: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. INHOFE. I would also like to take this opportunity to note for the record that I believe there are several unrealistic sections of the CBO score that appear to be based on several unconventional interpretations of the Committee reported bill.

CBO estimates that the recreation fee program will result in $27 million in estimated outlays for 2005 and $13 million in estimated outlays for 2006, at which point CBO assumes that the outlays become a $7 million annual revenue. The recreation user fee program established in the bill, creates a program to directly fund the operation and maintenance needs associated with recreation at Corps reservoirs. The committee reported bill amends section 225 of WRDA 1999. That particular section of WRDA 99 provides the Secretary of the Army a temporary authority under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to withhold a limited portion of recreation user fees and provides authority to spend those revenues on the operation and maintenance of recreation facilities at Corps reservoirs. The committee bill further amended this authority to allow the Corps to withhold 100 percent of the recreation fees, on a permanent basis and directed the Corps to establish a progrm to facilitate the efficient collection of revenues. The CBO interpretation of this section assumes that the Corps will withhold the recreation fees it currently collects and spend them directly on O&M. However, when the Corps implements the program for fees CBO assumes that the agaency's authority for withholding such fees disappears, and the agency will blithely turn them over to the General Treasury leaving their O&M budget in shambles. Such an outcome is in direct contravention of the obvious purpose of the entire section. And while such an interpretation of the section is possible, I have yet to encounter a situation where an agency turned funds over to the Treasury when they were authorized to withhold and spend them directly.

Section 1006 authorizes the Corps to deposit revenues collected in conjunction with operations at Corps reservoirs. With respect to the generation of hydro-power, the Corps does not currently collect any fees from the Power Marketing Administrations, PMAs. In the case of PMA revenue, the PMAs send a portion of their revenue to the Treasury. In order to provide direct funding for the Corps, the committee bill provides for a 0.22 cent charge per kilowatt of electricity produced. Bonneville Power Administration is specifically exempt from the 0.22 cent per kilowat hour fee. Despite this exemption, CBO assumes that Bonneville Power will ignore it's other authorizing statutes and turn over more than $800 million a year to the Corps. I would point out that the 0.22 cent per kilowatt fee, was the committee's best estimate at the size of a fee that would be required to directly fund $150 million for O&M, which was the amount recommended in the president's budget. Excluding Bonneville Power Administration, CBO estimated that the 0.22 cent per kilowatt hour would result in $173 million in direct O&M outlays. I believe that CBO erroneous included Bonneville Power Administration in the estimate of direct spending. Bonneville Power Administration receipts, if collected by the Corps, would total $7.1 billion over a 10-year period.

While CBO erroneously overestimates, the direct spending associated with O&M at Corps reservoirs, it completely underestimates the direct spending that will likely be required should the Fish and Wildlife mitigation provision become enacted. Section 1011 establishes a new standard for fish and wildlife mitigation for Corps of Engineers projects. Because the standard specifically amends WRDA 1986 with changing the dates specified in WRDA 86 with respect to the applicability of the standard to completed and on going projects, a strict reading of the new standard makes it applicable to all projects authorized after November 17, 1986. Moreover, the standard sets a very high bar by requiring the Corps to ''acquire and restore the same number of acres of habitat'' to fully replace the hydrologic and ecological functions of ''each acre of habitat adversely affected.'' While on its face such a requirement may seem innocuous, there is no deminimus level for the determination of an adverse effect. Strictly speaking, even relatively minor changes to land use or hydrology would trigger the requirement for the Corps to acquire an equal number of acres as those that are modified, and restore all of those acres. The liability that this imposes on the Corps for mitigation of projects to this standard for everything since 1986 is likely substantial. Given that most non-Federal sponsors are local and State governments, this potentially represents a significant unfunded mandate as well.

NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Senate for passing S. Res. 430, a resolution designating November 2004 as National Runaway Prevention Month. National Runaway Prevention Month is a public education initiative to increase awareness of issues facing runaways. This resolution will sensitize the public about solutions to the runaway dilemma and educate them on the role they play in preventing youth from running away.

Runaway and ''throwaway'' episodes among our Nation's youth are a widespread problem, with one out of every seven children and youth in the United States running away or being turned out of their home before the age of 18. A recent study by the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estimates that nearly 1.7 million youth experienced a runaway or throwaway episode in a single year. The primary causal factors of running away or being turned out are severe family conflict, abuse and neglect, and parental abuse of alcohol and drugs.

All of the conditions that lead young people to leave or be turned out of their homes are preventable. However, we need to make interventions available to strengthen families and support youth in high-risk situations. Successful interventions are grounded in partnerships among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses.

Preventing young people from running away and supporting youth in high-risk situations are a family, community, and national responsibility. Please join us in increasing public attention to the challenges that youth are facing today and in encouraging all Americans to play a role in supporting the millions of young people who have run away from their home environments or who are at-risk of doing so each year.

NATIONAL SEVERE STORMS LABORATORY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, in Oklahoma, we know the importance of predicting and tracking severe weather. Each spring, during tornado season, people in Oklahoma brace themselves for dangerous storms. However, instead of hiding in the dark, like they used to do, today, they can depend on a stellar source for up-to-date, real-time information. The National Severe Storms Labs NSSL has played a vital role in providing research for predicting and tracking this harmful weather. In light of this, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the vital office of the NSSL within the Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmoheric Administration, in Norman, Oklahoma.

The National Severe Storms Laboratory was established in 1964 and leads the way in investigations of all aspects of severe and hazardous weather. NSSL is a vital part of NOAA Research and the only federally supported laboratory focused on severe weather. The lab's scientists and staff constantly explore new ways to improve understanding of the causes of severe weather and ways to use weather information to assist National Weather Service, NWS, forecasters, as well as Federal, uiversity and private sector partners.

These scientists are working on ways to improve short-term weather forecasting computer models for the National Weather Service's basic tornado research to understand how tornadoes form, as well as real-time delivery of