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105TH CONGRESS, *2d Session* | SENATE | REPORT 105–322

TO ESTABLISH THE FOUR CORNERS INTERPRETIVE CENTER ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SEPTEMBER 9, 1998.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1998]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 1998) to establish the Four Corners Interpretive Center Act, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSES

The purpose of S. 1998 is to establish the Four Corners Interpretive Center within the boundaries of the existing Four Corners Monument Tribal Park to interpret and commemorate the Four Corners Monument, to highlight the natural splendor and beauty of the American southwest for tourism and related purposes. The Four Corners area is the only location in the United States linking four states: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

BACKGROUND

The Four Corners Monument was erected in 1899 to honor the only geographic location in the nation where the boundaries of four states (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah) meet. The Four Corners Monument Tribal Park itself is located on lands that fall within the Navajo Nation and Ute Mountain Ute reservations. In 1996, these tribes entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing future development of the park.

Once the house of the Anasazi people, the Four Corners Area is unique in terms of it's geography, history, culture, and archaeology, and is visited each year by more than 250,000 domestic and inter-

national travelers. Though endowed with natural assets, permanent facilities such as restrooms, roadways, parking, water, electrical services, telephone, and sewage at the park are sorely lacking and are thought to hinder the full development of the park and surrounding economies.

SUMMARY OF THE PROVISIONS OF S. 1998

This legislation would establish the Four Corners Interpretive Center within the boundaries of the tribal park on lands to be provided by the Navajo Nation or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The Interpretive Center is to serve as an educational hub providing cultural, historical, and archaeological information, and is to be complemented by an array of amenities to attract domestic and international visitors to the area.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to award federal construction grant funds in an amount not to exceed two million dollars ($2,000,000) to any of the four states involved or a consortium of two or more of such states for up to fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of construction of the center.

To be eligible for such grant funds, the states must supply matching funds for planning, design, construction, furnishing, startup and operational expenses in equal contributions of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) per state. Such matching funds may be made in cash or in kind, and may be provided by the states, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, or private sources.

Grant applications must include provisions regarding applicable laws, building codes and regulations. Grant applicants must enter into memoranda of understanding with the Secretary of Interior regarding the planning and construction of the center, and specifications for the operation of the center. Such applicants must also include a financing plan developed jointly by the Navajo Nation and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe regarding leveraged funding sources; fee assessments by the center to cover operating expenses; a strategic objective of center self-sufficiency no later than 5 years after enactment; and defined vendor standards and business activities at the tribal park.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Four Corners Center Interpretive Act (S. 1998) was introduced on April 28, 1998, by Senator Orrin Hatch, for himself, and for Senators Robert Bennett and Jeff Bingaman. The bill was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. On June 24, 1998, the Committee on Indian Affairs convened a business meeting to consider S. 1998 and other measures that had been referred to it. The Committee reported the bill favorably without amendment

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND TABULATION OF VOTE

On June 24, 1998, the Committee on Indian Affairs, in an open business session, considered S. 1998 and ordered it favorably reported without amendment, with a recommendation that the bill do pass.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION

The cost estimate for S. 1998 as calculated by the Congressional Budget Office, is set forth below:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 21, 1998.

Hon. BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL,
Chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared that enclosed cost estimate for S. 1998, the Four Corners Interpretive Center Act.

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

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

Enclosure.

S. 1998—Four Corners Interpretive Center Act

S. 1998 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Four Corners Interpretive Center to commemorate the Four Corners Monument, located where the boundaries of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet. The interpretive center would be built on land made available by the Navajo Nation or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe within Four Corners Monument Tribal Park S. 1998 would authorize the Secretary to award a federal grant to Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or any consortium of these states for up to 50 percent of the cost of constructing the center. S. 1998 would authorize the appropriation of $2.25 million over fiscal years 1999 through 2004 to carry out the bill. In addition, the bill would authorize the Secretary to accept donations from private or public entities for planning, building, and operating the interpretive center.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1998 would increase discretionary outlays by about $2 million over the 1999–2000 period, and by about $50,000 a year for fiscal years 2001 through 2004, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Because enacting the bill could affect direct spending and governmental receipts; pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that any such effects would be insignificant. The legislation 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.

The CBO staff contact is Kristen Layman. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires that each report accompanying a bill to evaluate the regulatory paperwork impact that would be incurred in implementing the legislation. The Committee has concluded that enactment

of S. 1998 will create only *de minimis* regulatory or paperwork burdens.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee has received no official communications from the Administration on the provisions of the bill.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill are required to be set out in the accompanying Committee report. The Committee states that enactment of S. 1998 will not result in any changes in existing law.

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