defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) and any costs resulting from the compact would be borne voluntarily by Alabama, Florida, and Georgia as a result of the agreement.

ESTIMATED COST OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Implementing H.J. Res. 91 would effect both spending subject to appropriation and direct spending. CBO estimates that enacting H.J. Res. 91 would result in new spending subject to appropriation of less than $500,000 in 1998, about $4 million in 1999, $3 million in 2000, and $2 million a year thereafter. CBO estimates that the compact would increase direct spending, beginning in 1999, by reducing offsetting receipts from recreation fees and federal hydropower operations, but any such changes would likely be insignificant. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). The estimated budgetary effects of H.J. Res. 91 are shown in the following table.

[By fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Spending subject to appropriation—					
Spending Under Current Law:					
Estimated Authorization Level[1]	31	31	31	31	31
Estimated Outlays	32	32	31	31	31
Proposed Changes:					
Estimated Authorization Level	([2])	4	3	2	2
Estimated Outlays	([2])	4	3	2	2
Spending Under H.J. Res. 91:					
Estimated Authorization Level[1]	31	35	34	33	33
Estimated Outlays	32	36	34	33	33
Changes in direct spending—					
Estimated Budget Authority	0	([2])	([2])	([2])	([2])
Estimated Outlays	0	([2])	([2])	([2])	([2])

[1] The 1998 level is the amount appropriated in that year for programs conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the ACF basin. The amounts shown for subsequent years reflect assumed continuation of the current-year funding level, without adjustment for inflation. Alternatively, if funding were increased to cover anticipated inflation, funding under current law would gradually grow from $31 million in 1998 to $35 million in 2002.

[2] Less than $500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Spending Subject to Appropriation

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that (1) the compact is approved in the next few months, (2) a commission is formed in 1998, (3) all amounts estimated to be authorized by the legislation will be appropriated, and (4) a new plan for allocating water among the states will be approved in fiscal year 1999. New discretionary spending would be necessary for expenses of a federal commissioner to participate in the ACF commission, for conducting studies and monitoring activities in coordination with the commission, and for operating federal facilities in the river basin in a manner consistent with the new allocation plan.

Federal Commissioner.

CBO estimates that the cost of sending the federal commissioner to meetings of the commission and of funding a personal staff with be less than $500,000 a year beginning in 1998. The commissioner would serve without compensation. General expenses of the commission would be paid by the states of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

Studies and Monitoring.

CBO estimates that the compact would result in new spending subject to appropriation of about $2 million in fiscal year 1999 and about $1 million in 2000 for completing an environmental impact statement of options for allocating water in the ACF basin, for developing a plan for monitoring water levels and quality in the basin, and for conducting additional studies. Additional spending of less than $500,000 a year beginning in 2000 would occur for implementing, operating, and maintaining programs and equipment for monitoring the basin.

Beginning in 1991, the Congress has appropriated to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) an average of almost $2 million a year—about $13 million in total—for studying the long-term needs for water and availability of water resources in the ACF and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapossa (ACT) basins. An additional $5 million was provided to the Corps in 1997 for conducting a preliminary environmental impact statement regarding options for allocating water in the ACF and ACT basins.

Federal Facilities.

Based on information from the Corps, CBO estimates that operating federal facilities in the ACF basin in a manner that complies with a new water allocation plan may result in additional discretionary spending of about $2 million a year, beginning in 1999. We expect that these annual cost could range from near zero to $4 million a year, depending on whether a new allocation plan is adopted and whether it results in a significant change in water use in the river basin.

Most of the expense of implementing a new water allocation plan would be for operating and maintaining channels for navigation because the cost of that activity is highly dependent on water flows. Under current law, CBO estimates that the Corps will spend about $14 million in 1998 for navigation-related activities in the ACF basin. CBO anticipates that the cost of other major activities in the basin would not change significantly as a result of the compact. The cost of operating and maintaining hydropower facilities is not likely to change significantly as a result of minor changes in water flows. Moreover, any major flood control activities in the basin would likely require further authorization by Congress.

Direct Spending

CBO anticipates that the compact would have an impact on direct spending by reducing the amount of receipts returned to the Treasury from recreation facilities operated by the Corps and the Department of the Interior in the ACF basin. A new water allocation plan could affect receipts from recreation areas by directly or indirectly changing water levels at lakes and other recreation areas so that their use if reduced. This type of impact would be most likely in years when total water supplies were already low, for example, because of below-average rainfall. CBO estimates that the impact on receipts from recreation elements would be less than $500,000 annually, beginning in 1999.

The compact could also affect receipts from hydropower operations, but CBO estimates that the net impact on hydropower revenues from any likely water allocation plan would be insignificant. A new plan could affect power operations by limiting the amount of water that can flow through federal power-generating facilities. This could affect the amount of power that can be produced and sold. However, CBO estimates that any impact on hydropower receipts is likely to be significant because federal law requires that, to the extent market conditions permit, hydropower operations cover expenses. In the case of limits on power production, the price could be increased to offset any reduction in the quantity of power produced and sold.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 specifies pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. CBO estimates that enacting H.J. Res. 91 would increase direct spending by less than $500,000 a year, beginning in 1999. Enacting the legislation would not affect governmental receipts.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.J. Res. 91 would give the consent of the Congress to an agreement mutually entered into by three states, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The resolution contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, and any costs to the states resulting from the compact would be borne voluntarily as a result of the agreement.

Estimated prepared by: Federal costs, Gary Brown, impact on State, local, and tribal governments, Leo Lex.

Estimated approved by: Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

THE PRINTED CIRCUIT INVESTMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Printed Circuit Investment Act of 1997 and to encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

This simple and straightforward bill will allow manufacturers of printed wiring boards and printed wiring assemblies, known as the interconnecting industry, to depreciate their production equipment in 3 years rather than the 5 years in current law. Printed wiring boards are those ubiquitous little green boards loaded with tiny wires and microchips which are the nerve centers of electronic items from television sets to computers to mobile phones.

The interconnecting industry, as with so much of the electronics industry, has changed dramatically in just the last decade. While the industry was once dominated by large companies, the industry now consists overwhelmingly of small firms, with many of them located in my home State of Illinois. The rapid pace of technological advancement today makes interconnecting manufacturing equipment obsolete in 18 to 36 months—tomorrow's advances will further reduce that time to obsolescence. This makes the interconnecting industry very capital intensive. In fact, capital expenditures totaled $2.1 billion in 1996 and are expected to be $2.3 billion this year. Considering that this is an industry dominated by small U.S. firms competing in ever more competitive world markets, clearly we need a Tax Code that more clearly reflects reality.

The depreciation rules found in the Tax Code, of course, have not kept pace with the realities of this dynamic market. The industry currently relies on tax law passed in the 1980's, which was based on 1970's era electronics technology. U.S. competitors in Asia, however, enjoy much more favorable tax treatment as well as direct Government subsidies. We must remove the U.S. Tax Code as an obstacle to growth in this industry. The Printed Circuit Investment Act will take a step in that direction. Quite frankly though, I view this as a very modest step and would like to provide much more generous tax relief to these businesses, considering the fierce competition from foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, the Printed Circuit Investment Act of 1997 will provide modest tax relief to the interconnecting industry and the 250,000 Americans whose jobs rely on the success of this industry. I urge my colleagues to join me in providing this relief by cosponsoring the bill.

DRUG CRISIS IN MEXICO

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post this week has been running a series of front-page articles documenting the effects of the overwhelming quantities of drugs pouring across our border with Mexico. The Post series has highlighted the terrible threat of corruption also in our own law enforcement ranks, breakdowns in cooperation at the working level between the United States and Mexico, and the spread of drug-related crime and drug gangs in our cities and among our immigrant communities.

I have long been deeply concerned about the escalating drug crisis in Mexico and the United States. In recent meetings with Mexico's Foreign Minister, attorney general, and Ambassador to the United States, I delivered a frank, critical message as a long-time friend of Mexico.

On the positive side, we should recognize that President Zedillo's move to quickly remove the corrupt drug czar, Gen. Jose Gutierrez, sent an important signal that even the highest officials can not betray Mexico's trust with impunity. The Mexican Government has also greatly improved its cooperation with refueling on our counternarcotics missions, especially for maritime deployments to interdict drugs along the transit route currently favored by narcotics traffickers.

However, grave problems persist in our counternarcotics efforts with Mexico which both countries are simply going to have to face and work harder to fix. The drug trade in all its facets threatens us equally. We must not let ourselves be divided in fighting this scourge. Because of this, President Zedillo's reported statements that the United States—as a consumer of illicit drugs—should make reparations for the damage caused to Mexico by the drug trade were especially troubling. We can not accept that assertion. We know empirically that the narcotics traffickers have been dumping drugs onto our streets and using supply to create the increased demand that lines their pockets with criminal wealth.

Our DEA agents who put their lives on the line in Mexico must be allowed to carry arms to defend themselves from deadly thugs. They must have the right to protect themselves as they help Mexico fight the scourge of illicit drugs. This matter should not be turned into a target of anachronistic rhetoric.

Despite President Zedillo's apparent good intentions, the organized crime units and other antidrug infrastructure and critically needed improvements seem to be moving slowly. Some 234 individuals dismissed for drug-related corruption have been reinstated on appeal. Recycling antidrug personnel unfortunately seems far too commonplace in Mexico. Moreover, compared to previous years, seizure rates especially for the cocaine which has been pouring into the United States from Mexico, are disappointing and distressing.

No major cartel leader has been arrested in Mexico since the March 1 certification. Also, despite 23 pending requests for extradition of Mexican nationals on narcotics offenses, Mexico has not extradited a single Mexican—as opposed to dual—national to the United States on narcotics charges since certification. Finally, only 16 out 48 helicopters in the possession of the Mexican Army that we provided to Mexico are in operation. Those helicopters that are operating are primarily conducting surveillance missions and have not made any drug seizures.

The situation is not encouraging. As the Washington Post articles point out, drugs are breeding addiction and its attendant misery, violence, and corruption on both sides of our border with Mexico. We must redouble our Nation's commitment to reinforce every legitimate effort to combat this well-armed, wealthy, and ruthless underworld. It is essential that to be effective, our war on drugs must have the cooperation of our neighbors and the international community.

HONORING AMBASSADOR SHYAMULA B. COWSICK OF INDIA

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to honor the outgoing Deputy Chief of Mission of India, Ambassador Shyamula Cowsick. Over the past 2 years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the Ambassador on improving relations between our two nations. The Ambassador has always been available to provide special briefings and materials as we worked through issues. Her involvement allowed the two nations to make historic progress at the legislative, executive, and non-governmental levels through an explosion of contacts and ongoing dialogues. Her special insight was valuable in that it allowed her to bridge the cultural and political gap that frequently confronts policy makers. As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, it has been my pleasure to work with Ambassador Cowsick, and I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing her continued success.

FIRST BOOKS: THE JOYS OF READING

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a unique educational program—a partnership between the YMCA's Childcare Resource Service and KPBS Television in San Diego. The First Books program, part of the nationwide ready to learn campaign, will provide 200 free books each month to children from low-income families.

The First Books program has a simple goal: to promote literacy in homes where books may not be readily available. They plan to make reading books more pleasurable and entertaining by connecting them to public television programming.

Children in 25 different San Diego day care programs will receive free books from the First Books program. The YMCA's Childcare Resource Center staff, led by Director Nan Mitchell, hopes to extend the joy of books to the parents and teachers through monthly workshops designed to teach ways of making learning fun by combining books and public television.

Providing books to children in homes where books are not always available is a proven way to build a firm foundation for future generations of schoolchildren. When one member of a family reads, it inspires the whole family.

The First Books program will make sure that the children of working parents who strive to make ends meet, are not left behind, but will be involved in fun activities with books to make sure they are ready to learn.

Research tells us that reading to our children from a very young age supports their development and enhances their learning. The adults who read with them—whether it be their parents or childcare providers—share in unlocking the wonders of imagination that books foster.

This program ensures all children will have the opportunity to discover the delight of books. Books are many children's most cherished possessions and provide long-lasting memories. I salute KPBS and the Childcare Resource Service for introducing all children to this magical world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall No. 570, the United States-Caribbean Trade Partnership Act (H.R. 2644). I want the record to reflect that I strongly support this legislation and should have voted "yes."

VERNON E. HALL: UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vernon E. Hall, who will be honored today by his friends, family, and colleagues in San Pedro, CA. Vern is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to the Port of Los Angeles.

Vern Hall has served as Director of Development for the Port of Los Angeles since May of 1995. Prior to that time, Vern served as Chief Harbor Engineer since 1988. He is responsible for the activities of the Port's development divisions which include Engineering, Construction Management and Environmental Management, as well as numerous consultants and contractors engaged in the planning, design, permitting and construction of Port terminals and supportive infrastructure. Hall, during his Port career, was responsible for numerous capital development projects and programs, ranging from the West Channel/Cabrillo Beach Recreational Complex to the $650 million Pier 300/400 Implementation Program. He has contributed to most of the significant Port development projects undertaken