

WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CONSERVATION SEMIPOSTAL  
STAMP ACT OF 2011

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JANUARY 18, 2012.—Ordered to be printed  
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Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Natural  
Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2236]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2236) to provide for the issuance of a Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2236 is to provide for the issuance of a Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), semipostal stamps are: “issued and sold by the Postal Service, at a premium, in order to help providing funding for a cause.” This means that while a first-class stamp can now be purchased for 44 cents, a first-class semipostal stamp costs 55 cents with the 11 cent difference being deposited in a special account.

While USPS has the legal authority, which was provided to them by Congress in the Semipostal Authorization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-253), to decide what causes to support through the sale of semipostal stamps, all semipostals issued thus far have been the result of legislative action. These have included a Stamp Out Breast Semipostal Stamp, a 9/11 Heroes Semipostal Stamp, a Domestic Violence Semipostal Stamp, and a Save Vanishing Species Semipostal Stamp. In each instance, USPS has fully recovered its expenses and there was no outlay of taxpayer money.

Under H.R. 2236, USPS is directed to issue a new Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp. This stamp would be sold at a premium price, and the proceeds from the differential above the cost of a first class stamp would be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to be used exclusively for expenses incurred within the National Wildlife Refuge System. This semipostal stamp shall be available to the public for at least two years and any proceeds raised under this Act shall not be used to offset any money that may be appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the Refuge System.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2236 was introduced on June 16, 2011, by Congressman Gregorio Sablan (D-MP). The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources. Within the Natural Resources Committee, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. On October 25, 2011, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On November 17, 2011, the Full Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(2)(B) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

#### *H.R. 2236—Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp Act of 2011*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2236 would have no significant costs to the federal government. Enacting the bill would affect direct spending, but such costs would not be significant. Because the legislation would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 2236 would direct the United States Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp for first-class mail that would cost partici-

pating customers at least 15 percent more than the regular rate. Any amount collected from the special stamp (called a semipostal), after accounting for the Postal Service's administrative costs, would be transferred to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for expenditure on programs to support the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Postal Service would have 12 months after enactment to make the semipostal available to the public, and the program would terminate no sooner than two years after that.

Payments of amounts above the regular first-class postage rate (currently 44 cents) would be treated as offsetting collections (that is, negative outlays) of the Postal Service. Based on sales of other semipostals in recent years, we expect that the increase in offsetting collections would be less than \$1 million annually. Payments of those funds to the USFWS would be outlays of the Postal Service and offsetting collections to the USFWS, which would spend those amounts mostly in the same year. CBO estimates that the net change in outlays of the Postal Service (which is off-budget) and the USFWS (which is on-budget) would not be significant in any year.

H.R. 2236 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. Section 308(a) of Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures. Enacting the bill would affect direct spending, but such costs would not be significant. Because the legislation would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The bill would not affect revenues. Payments of amounts above the regular first-class postage rate (currently 44 cents) would be treated as offsetting collections (that is, negative outlays) of the Postal Service. Based on sales of other semipostals in recent years, CBO expects that the increase in offsetting collections would be less than \$1 million annually. Payments of those funds to FWS would be outlays of the Postal Service and offsetting collections to FWS, which would spend those amounts mostly in the same year. CBO estimates that the net change in outlays of the Postal Service (which is off-budget) and FWS (which is on-budget) would not be significant in any year.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to provide for the issuance of a Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

