

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-4th), today has sent the following telegram to President Jimmy Carter:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I REPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU PERSONALLY VISIT AND VIEW THE COMPLETE DEVASTATION IN APPALACHIA CAUSED BY RECENT FLOODS THERE, AND THAT YOU MAKE A FISRT-HAND EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RELIEF EFFORTS. WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE THE CONDITIONS EXISTING IN MY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NOR CAN THEY DEPICT THE FRUSTRATION EXPERIENCED IN TRYING TO GET AID TO THE VICTIMS.

"I am hopeful that the President will respond favorably to my request, because the time for excuses as to why flood victims are not being helped is over," Rahall stated.

"I understand that a time period was necessary to get the relief operation into full swing," Rahall observed, "but it has been almost three weeks and the effort should be moving smoothly by now."

Rahall pledged a strong effort on his part to do whatever is necessary to get the relief effort assisting victims more quickly.

"This weekend, flood victims in my Congressional District will be receiving a letter, asking them to tell me of their experiences so far with the Federal Relief operations," Rahall pointed out. "If the complaints are high, I will have to go to the President personally and demand his help." (letter is attached)

Congressman Rahall is also preparing legislation for introduction next week, which if passed, would lower the interest rates on flood loans from 6 5/8% to 3%.

"This bill will be difficult to pass," Rahall observed, "but I will sure try as hard as I can to see that it does."

NICK J. RAHALL, II
4TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

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April, 1977

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Dear Friend:

Last week, while I was in southern West Virginia assisting flood victims in any way I could, there was talk about the Federal Relief operation not assisting residents in the stricken counties fast enough.

Since returning to Washington, I have looked into legislation to rectify the problem. But let me be honest with you, the only way to reduce the suffering and to speed up the relief effort, is to put pressure on those individuals in the Federal Government, including President Jimmy Carter, who are in a position to expedite the relief operation.

To do this however, I need your help!

Write me a letter as soon as possible, and tell me in your own words, the experiences you have had so far with the Federal Relief effort in your county.

Once I have received your letter, I will personally deliver it to President Carter, and demand he do something to speed up the relief assistance to flood victims in southern West Virginia.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress