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WASHINGTON D.C. --- U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NICK J. RAHALL (D-4TH), IS PUSHING HIS COLLEGUES IN THE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT A \$1.5 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOIL AND WATER LABORATORY IN BECKLEY.

RAHALL HAS URGED HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO "ACCEPT THE SENATE VERSION OF THE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978, WHICH WAS OFFERED BY SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD (D-W.V.)."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS AWARE THE HOUSE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE DID NOT FAVOR THE FUNDING OF THE LABORATORY, HOWEVER RAHALL SAID, "THIS PROJECT WOULD BE A GREAT SERVICE TO APPALACHIA, SINCE IT WOULD RESEARCH SOIL AND WATER CONDITIONS IN THE AREA IN AN EFFORT TO FIND WAYS OF MAKING LAND MORE PRODUCTIVE."

RAHALL ALSO POINTED OUT, "SUCH A PROJECT WOULD MEAN JOBS FOR THOSE WORKERS IN THE AREA, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD."

THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN ITS' SESSION IN THE COMING WEEKS.