

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-4th), met today with President Jimmy Carter at the White House to discuss disaster relief assistance and the Black Lung Reform Act of 1977.

At a nine o'clock morning session, Rahall presented the President with 600 letters from residents of southern West Virginia, who had difficulties in obtaining Federal disaster assistance during the recent flooding.

"President Carter was very interested in the letters," Rahall said. "He spread them out on the table in front of us, and read a number of them. He also assured me that they would be acknowledged by the Administration."

The President and Congressman Rahall discussed legislation before Congress at the present time that would lower disaster loan interest rates. Rahall explained that, "Mr. Carter supports a reduced interest rate of 5% for businesses and 3% for homeowners. He does not support a forgiveness clause or out-right grants."

On the Black Lung Reform Act, the President was concerned over the automatic 30 year entitlement that is provided for in the bill. "I told the President that those of us in Congress who recognize the need for this legislation need an Administration position to work with. I was pleased however, that in the meeting, Mr. Carter asked his Congressional Liason Chief Frank Moore to prepare background information for him on the Black Lung Bill."

President Carter asked Congressman Rahall, that if the Black Lung Bill passed the Congress, if he could promise that there would be no strikes. "I told the President that I could not assure him that there would not be any strikes, but I did tell him that it would provide a great help to the miners."

Rahall in summary said, "I could tell by President Carter's interest in the problems of the flood victims, miners, and everyone living in Appalachia, that we have a friend and supporter for the programs that must be implemented to make our region of the country a prosperous and great place to live. I was very pleased with the session, and I look forward to working with President Carter in the many years to come."