

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick Rahall (D-4th), today co-sponsored legislation to deal with the natural gas shortage that is occurring throughout the nation and especially in West Virginia.

"While the nation has thus far been able to barely survive the winter despite Congressional inaction," Rahall said, "there is little assurance of continued supplies as the situation takes on crisis proportions."

"The legislation I am co-sponsoring would provide a mechanism by which interstate pipelines would be able to tap surplus gas supplies, for a period of 180 days." Rahall pointed out that interstate pipelines are presently cutting back on residential, small commercial, and small industrial users.

"Throughout West Virginia, 30,000 employees are temporarily out of work because of the fuel shortage. Families are moving into schools and the elderly are relocating in hospitals to keep warm, and the Department of Employment Security has estimated that those out of work have lost over \$1.3 million a day," the Raleigh County Democrat pointed out.

Last weekend, President Carter instructed his Energy Assistant James Schesinger to consider a proposal to allocate more natural gas to areas that are in the greatest need. The measure supported by Congressman Rahall is expected to be very similar to the final proposal President Carter comes up with this week.

"We know we must examine measures to deal with long term energy shortages," Rahall said, "but let us not sacrifice thousands of jobs and the welfare of hundreds of thousands of our citizens in the meantime. I am hopeful Congress will act on this legislation as soon as possible."

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