

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Charleston, W. Va. --- U.S. Representative Nick Rahall (D-4th), tonight reaffirmed a statement he had made to Congressional leaders earlier this week, which was, "West Virginia does not need Federal legislation to effectively regulate surface mining and reclamation, but mining operations in other states should be forced to adhere to tough regulations similar to those already in effect in West Virginia."

The Beckley Democrat's remarks were made at the "Coal Man of the Year" testimonial dinner, that honored James H. "Buck" Harless, President of the Lynn Land Coal Company in Gilbert.

"Strength and pride are the essential ingredients of the mountaineer character, and "Buck" Harless exemplifies those qualities," Rahall said of the evening's honoree.

The dinner, held at the Daniel Boone Hotel, was sponsored by the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association with the proceeds from the \$100-a-plate event going to the West Virginia University Mountaineer Scholarship Fund.

Congressman Rahall also announced that he had been appointed to serve on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, along with his other assignment, the Public Works and Transportation Committee.

The Interior Committee oversees legislation relating to public lands, reclamation and all mining and mineral land matters. The Committee is expected to consider a Federal Strip Mining law in the next few months.

In summary, Rahall stated, "I am pleased to know that I will be able to play a major role in the formulation of laws relating to mining, because I appreciate what the coal industry is doing for West Virginia. It is providing more than 50,000 jobs and bringing nearly two and three quarter billion dollars into our state economy annually."