

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- Fourth District Congressman Nick Rahall today invited the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to visit surface mining areas in West Virginia before considering a new Federal strip mining law.

In a letter to Congressman Morris K. Udall of Arizona, who is expected to become the new chairman of the Interior Committee, the Beckley Democrat stated that, "it is not necessary for the Federal government to regulate surface mining and reclamation in the State of West Virginia."

Congressman Rahall pointed out that, "West Virginia does not want the creation of another Federal bureaucracy with Federal administrative procedures and standards to be superimposed on West Virginia, when the State has its own statutory program that the Rockefeller Administration has promised to enforce."

In discussing the state law already on the books, Rahall said, "the State of West Virginia has continually improved its surface mining regulatory program with additional legislation and regulations. Today, West Virginia has a tough, effective program regulating surface mining that protects the environment and insures sound reclamation." In summary, the Congressman expressed his confidence in the Department of Natural Resources to improve the job of enforcement under the new Administration.

Congress passed a Federal Strip Mining Act in 1975, but the measure was vetoed by President Ford. The legislation was sponsored at that time, by Congressman Udall.

Congressman Rahall expressed hope that the Committee will accept his invitation, because he believes West Virginia would benefit from such a visit.

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