

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. ----- Fourth District Congressman Nick Rahall, (D-WV), has expressed his support for a measure that assists low income West Virginia families in paying their rapidly rising heating costs. The legislation, HR 9375, would also increase the funding for the AMTRAK railroad system.

Congressman Rahall explained, "Last winter, 2 million low income households in the United States were assisted in meeting the high heating bills that were caused by the fuel shortage. Low-income families and older Americans on fixed incomes with no savings or reserves, cannot possibly be expected to absorb the tremendous inflation in heating costs which occurs during a fuel emergency, such as the one the nation experienced last year."

Rahall pointed out that the Special Crisis Intervention Program will be appropriated \$200 million to aid Americans who are unable pay their fuel costs. "West Virginia, along with four other states received \$24 million last from a similar program, and would so again if a winter fuel emergency was declared in the State," Rahall said.

"There is no reason why people have to suffer through the winter cold, without adequate heating," Congressman Rahall stated.

"Also of great importance to West Virginia residents," Rahall said, "is the increase in funding for AMTRAK." Congressman Rahall was instrumental last spring in the effort to maintain the AMTRAK Mountaineer Route through southern West Virginia.

Rahall explained that, "This measure will provide AMTRAK with the necessary money to continue and up-grade their service. I have pushed for a new schedule and modern equipment for the Mountaineer Route, now called the Hilltopper, and I believe that this increase could be a step to provide viable rail passenger service again to the United States."

Congressman Rahall observed that he expects Congress to approve this measure.