

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 1977

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Washington D.C. --- Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall stated today that the effort to maintain the Amtrak Mountaineer Route is continuing.

"The Mountaineer, which went into operation on March 25, 1975, is now under review by the Secretary of Transportation," Rahall observed. "The route was a two year experiment, and hopefully it will be made part of the Basic Amtrak System."

"In my discussions with Secretary of Transportation Adams," Rahall went on to say, "I am confident that he is fully aware of the impact cancellation of the Mountaineer would have on the residents of Southern West Virginia."

In a related matter, Congressman Rahall pointed out that a number of groups concerned with the expansion of mass transportation in the country, will be in Washington this week to testify on the need for increased federal funds to continue Amtrak.

"Hearings are taking place this week in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation to discuss Amtrak," Rahall said. "I intend to follow the Subcommittee's actions closely and discuss personally with Rep. John McFall, chairman of the Subcommittee, the need for Amtrak in our State."

Congressman Rahall began his fight to maintain the Mountaineer Route last January, when in a letter to Amtrak officials he said, "If the Mountaineer Route is withdrawn, it would greatly affect the progress which has been made in the development of the economy and recreational facilities in southern West Virginia."

Early last month in a letter to Secretary Adams, Rahall suggested improvements for the Mountaineer Route.

In response, Adams stated, "The most important factor in the continuation of the Mountaineer, will be the number of riders using the route and the potential future ridership."

Congressman Rahall said he expects a decision on the Mountaineer in the next few months.

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