

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick Rahall (D-4th), today called for the continuation of the AMTRAK Mountaineer Route of West Virginia. The Mountaineer Route is scheduled to terminate on March 27, 1977.

In a letter to Mr. Bruce O. Pike, Vice President for Government Affairs for the National Railroad Corporation (AMTRAK), Congressman Rahall stated, "In the coming years the equation of coal, a good rail system and highway system will determine the economic development of West Virginia over both long term and short term for continued prosperity. Therefore, I urge your support for the Mountaineer Route, because of the importance of the route to the local communities in the development of the economy and recreational facilities in southern West Virginia."

The Mountaineer Route, which runs from Bluefield, through Williamson to Huntington, has been in service since March, 1975.

Rahall also learned yesterday, that AMTRAK has temporarily annulled 26 lines in the Northeastern United States, due to cold weather and lack of equipment replacements. This temporary shut-down includes the Mountaineer Route.

AMTRAK's action has affected many West Virginians, who were traveling to Washington D.C. for the Inauguration. The lack of train service has forced many to resort to cars and buses for transportation.

In summary, Rahall said, "We in West Virginia are proud to have fresh water rivers and mountain areas that are drawing more and more people each year. And if the Mountaineer Route is withdrawn, it would greatly affect the progress which has been made as an alternative economic source which in turn is needed for a diversified economy."