

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-4th), today expressed delight in the 30 day extension of the Amtrak Mountaineer Route, which was scheduled to be discontinued on March 25, 1977.

However, Rahall pointed out that the future of the Mountaineer is still in question.

"The Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970, which created Amtrak, contains a provision for experimental train routes," Congressman Rahall observed. "Under this provision, all experimental routes must run for a full two years from the time of its' origin. The Mountaineer began March 25, 1975, and must operate for a full two years," Rahall went on to say.

"During the month of January, Amtrak temporarily shut down 26 lines throughout the Northeastern United States due to the weather conditions. The Mountaineer was shut down for about 3 1/2 weeks," Rahall said. "Therefore to stay within the law, Amtrak is required to operate the Mountaineer for at least 30 more days to fulfill the complete two year operation of the route."

Congressman Rahall began his efforts to maintain passenger train service in Southern West Virginia, almost immediately after taking office. He has had continued communications with the National Railroad Corporation (Amtrak), and the Department of Transportation, specifically Secretary Brock Adams.

In early February, Rahall in a letter to Adams, outlined 4 major proposals that would improve the Mountaineer. "My concern is not only that the Route be continued," Rahall stated, "but that it be improved."

"Since a decision will be made within the month on the future of the Mountaineer, I intend to continue my efforts if Amtrak's decision is negative," the Raleigh County Democrat went on to say.

"Our region of West Virginia is deficient in transportation now. Our roads must be improved, our airports expanded. To cut off rail service at this time is a step backwards for the people of West Virginia," Congressman Rahall concluded.