

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington D.C. --- Fourth District Congressman Nick Rahall said he was pleased at the decision made by the Board of Directors of Amtrak to recommend the continuation of the Mountaineer Route through West Virginia.

Rahall was informed of the decision by Amtrak officials on March 30.

"This country needs a better rail system nation-wide," Rahall pointed out. "With today's decision, one of our country's largest coal producing areas will continue to have rail passenger service."

Amtrak Board of Directors have suggested to Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams, that the Mountaineer be re-structured to originate in Washington instead of Norfolk, Va. The route will run south to Petersburg, Va. then continue west along the existing Mountaineer Route to Huntington. There the route will link with the James Witcomb Riley Route and continue on to Cincinnati and Chicago. (map attached)

In early February, Rahall charged that Amtrak was operating the Mountaineer as a "below average train" and outlined a number of suggestions. One of Rahall's suggestions was to originate the Mountaineer in Washington instead of Norfolk.

"I am happy that Amtrak has accepted my proposals, and I am confident that Secretary Adams will give the final approval to implement the ideas," Congressman Rahall stated.

Adams has until April 26 to give the final word on the Mountaineer. Rahall pointed out that the Board of Directors have to receive approval from Adams to continue the route. "After numerous discussions with Secretary Adams and knowing his views on a viable rail passenger system nationwide, I am sure he will give the go ahead to keep the Mountaineer in operation," Rahall observed.

Congressman Rahall in conclusion thanked the many residents in southern West Virginia who have written him and have worked in support of the Mountaineer. "This is proof that a strong and unified effort by the people can still influence government decisions."

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ROUTE OF THE MOUNTAINEER

