

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

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WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT  
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Washington D.C. --- Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), will testify before the Interstate Commerce Commission's Rail Service Planning Office hearing in Bluefield on June 30. The hearings are being held to receive public comment on a recently issued Department of Transportation report on the future of the Amtrak rail passenger system.

Congressman Rahall will present his statement at 9:00 am, in the Federal Court Room of the Post Office and Federal Building in Bluefield.

Congressman Rahall stated, "Since taking office in January of 1977, the future of the Amtrak Route has been a great concern to me. Southern West Virginia suffers from a transportation deficiency at the present time." Rahall pointed out that, "Our highways and roads need to be improved, our airports need to be expanded, and our rail passenger service must be continued."

The passenger route in question, is the "Hilltopper", which is to be cut if the Department of Transportation's recommendations are accepted. The "Hilltopper" makes four Southern West Virginia stops; Bluefield, Welch, Williamson, and Tri-State Station in Huntington/Catlettsburg, Ky.

Congressman Rahall has long urged for the Amtrak officials to, "Do a better job of advertising the Hilltopper plus Amtrak should be obligated to operate the line with new and more reliable equipment."

Rahall pointed out that, "The recent vote in the U.S. House of Representatives shows that there is a desire and a need to continue Amtrak service throughout the nation." The vote was on HR 11493, legislation that put off any service reductions for 18 months. The vote in the House was 204-89.