

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 1978

CONTACT: Mike Serpe
202-225-3452

Washington D.C. --- "Once again the actions of the Department of Housing and Urban Development has forced Congress to amend laws to protect the interests of smaller communities," Fourth District Congressman Nick Rahall, (D-WV), said today.

Rahall observed, "On all too many occasions, HUD has frustrated or attempted to frustrate attempts by smaller communities to participate fully in the community development programs."

Congressman Rahall pointed out that "Under existing regulations, communities under 50,000 may not take advantage of a special criteria, the unique distress factor to qualify for Action Grant funds." In addition Rahall stated, "tougher requirements are imposed on communities of under 2500 which want to participate in the Action Grant program."

Rahall, in an attempt to change HUD's practices, will support an amendment to HR 12433, the Housing and Community Deveopment Amendments of 1978, which will be offered by Congressman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), and Congressman Wes Watkins, (D-Okla.). Action on the legislation is expected in the next few days.

"Unfortunately HUD has often proposed regulations which would limit the access of smaller communities to community development funds," Rahall said. "Only vocal opposition by representatives for these communities has prevented such regulations from becoming final."

"It seems that every time you turn around, HUD is doing something that is of some harm to the residents of southern West Virginia the Fourth District Congressman stated. "No one has to tell the residents of the Tug Valley what this federal agency has done for them, because they will tell you."

In conclusion Rahall stated, "Representatives for smaller communities are getting tired of having to protest every time HUD comes out with new regualtions, but I know one thing, I will not sit back and see my constituents short-changed."