

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- "American taxpayers already pay enough to make government work, why make them pay more for another bureaucracy to do what existing federal agencies ought to be doing now," said Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV).

Congressman Rahall's remarks were made in reference to HR 6805, a bill to create a Consumer Protection Agency. The measure was defeated in the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 227-189.

"Government should be made better, not bigger," Rahall stated.

As to the cost of a consumer agency, Rahall pointed out, "This Consumer Protection Agency would cost the American taxpayer \$32 Million over the next two years. The residents of southern West Virginia alone would have to pay out \$74,000 of that total."

"Anyone who thinks West Virginians can throw away that kind of money on an unnecessary federal agency, evidently have never traveled on our roads, or have never seen the destruction caused due to the lack of adequate flood protection," Rahall added.

The Democratic Congressman went on to say, "Advocates of a consumer agency are misleading the American people, because such an office will only represent the desires of a few consumer advocates and not the interests of the American people." Rahall observed, "This agency would only handle a few cases of broad impact a year, and would ignore the thousands of consumer complaints that are solved and have a tremendous effect on the day-to-day lives of all American consumers."

In conclusion, Congressman Rahall said, "What I hear from small businessmen and the average worker in southern West Virginia, is that the government is too big. As an elected official who is committed to more responsive and effective government, I believe the people want the layers of bureaucracy striped away, and more common sense made out of our laws and regulations."