

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), began his second term in office by introducing legislation to provide \$100 Million dollars for the construction of flood control measures along the Tug Fork Valley. Rahall was joined by Congressman Carl D. Perkins, (D-KY), in submitting the measure on the opening day of the 96th Congress.

The legislation titled, "The Tug Valley Flood Protection Act of 1979", is one of Congressman Rahall's "top priorities for the year."

In introducing the measure, Rahall pointed out that, "Since 1954, southern West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky have been flooded 17 times, an average of one flood every 1.3 years and that the frequency rate is growing larger."

Rahall went on to say, "During this period of 25 years, the Small Business Administration has approved loans totaling over \$47 Million dollars, and the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration's obligations now total over \$10 Million and claims paid by the Federal Insurance Administration now total over \$7 Million. The total now exceeds \$64 Million dollars, which to put it another way, is almost \$3 Million dollars spent every 1.3 years."

Congressman Rahall stated that the need for flood protection is much greater now because, "The decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to raise the oil prices by 14% will have a decisive effect on our economy. The Tug Valley holds one of the keys to reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources, but without adequate flood protection this region will become nothing more than a sodden waste-land."

The bill, H.R. 41, has been referred to the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, of which Congressman Rahall is a member.

Congressman Rahall also added that this bill does away with the cost-benefit- ratio on projects of this kind.

(A COPY OF THE BILL IS ATTACHED).