

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA --- "THE UNITED STATES MUST COMMIT ITSELF TO COAL, SO THAT IN THE FUTURE, IT CAN BE FREE FROM THE WHIMS OF OPEC AND IRANIAN FANATICS," SAID WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, TO THE NATIONAL COAL AND SURFACE MINING CONFERENCE.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL'S REMARKS CAME IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO ATTENDEES AT THE FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE BEING HELD AT THE GREENBRIER IN WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS.

RAHALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP, STRESSED, "FOR TOO LONG NOW, THIS COUNTRY HAS ALLOWED ITSELF TO BECOME A VICTIM OF THE OPEC OIL MINISTERS. IT HAS ALLOWED ITSELF TO SUFFER SPIRILING INFLATION AS A RESULT OF FOREIGN OIL. BUT WORST OF ALL, THE UNITED STATES HAS ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE PULLED AWAY FROM ITS MOST ABUNDANT AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF ENERGY, COAL."

"IF COAL IS EVER TO PLAY ITS POTENTIAL AND NATURAL ROLE IN MEETING OUR ENERGY NEEDS, WE ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER," RAHALL STATED.

"WE ARE THE ONES WHO CAN CHANGE THE POLICY, OF NO POLICY, THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS SUFFERED FROM FOR TOO MANY YEARS IN THE AREA OF ENERGY," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OBSERVED.

RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "THE TIME HAS COME FOR A NEW DIALOGUE BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT IN THE COAL FIELDS. THE TIME HAS ALSO COME TO CUT THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT RED-TAPE THAT HAS STIFLED COAL'S GROWTH."

"WE HAVE A POTENTIAL TO SAVE 724,000 BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY, RIGHT NOW, IF WE FOLLOW THROUGH ON OUR EFFORTS TO CONVERT OIL AND GAS BURNING UTILITY PLANTS TO COAL," RAHALL POINTED OUT. "ALL OF THESE ARE SMALL STEPS, BUT THEY ARE HEALTHY, POSITIVE STEPS TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE."

"COAL CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO OUR FUTURE SECURITY, BUT WE CANNOT LOSE THE KEY THAT OPENS THE LOCK. AND THAT KEY IS COAL," RAHALL CONCLUDED.