

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, TOLD THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TODAY, "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD NO LONGER HAVE TO ASK THE QUESTION, "WHY NOT COAL.""

RAHALL, A WEST VIRGINIA DEMOCRAT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NEWLY FORMED CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP, MADE THE REMARKS IN A STATEMENT TO HIS COLLEAGUES.

"WITH DWINDLING SUPPLIES OF OIL AND GAS, GROWING DEPENDENCE ON UNSTABLE AND EXPENSIVE SOURCES OF OIL AND THE REALIZATION THAT NUCLEAR AND SOLAR POWER ARE NOT YET READY TO MEET OUR NEEDS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT COAL HOLDS THE KEY," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED.

IN RECAPPING THE DAY LONG HEARING HELD BY THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP ON MONDAY, RAHALL OBSERVED, "ONE MAJOR POINT CONTINUALLY KEPT BEING RAISED, WHICH WAS THE LACK OF A COMMITMENT TO COAL."

"THE HEARING BROUGHT HOME THE POINT THAT THE COAL INDUSTRY IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE," RAHALL SAID, "ALREADY OVER 12,000 COAL MINERS HAVE BEEN LAYED OFF, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT MANY MORE LAY-OFFS WILL FOLLOW," RAHALL POINTED OUT.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COAL GROUP AND I BELIEVE THAT THE HEARING IS THE BEGINNING OF AN AWARENESS PROCESS THAT WILL PROVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE IS THROUGH THE EXPANDED USE OF COAL."

25 OF THE MOST KNOWLEDGABLE PEOPLE IN THE COAL FIELD MADE PRESENTATIONS BEFORE THE COAL GROUP.

RAHALL CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "THOSE OF US WHO GREW UP IN THE COAL FIELDS ARE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE WE KNOW "BLACK GOLD" CAN BE OUR ACE IN THE HOLE. WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE ADMINISTRATION. WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."