

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "IT CURRENTLY TAKES THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ON THE AVERAGE, 26 YEARS FROM THE TIME A FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT IS FIRST AUTHORIZED TO THE TIME CONSTRUCTION BEGINS," SAID WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL.

RAHALL'S COMMENTS WERE MADE IN REFERENCE TO LEGISLATION THAT HE HAS CO-SPONSORED THAT WOULD STREAMLINE THE EXISTING PROCEDURE FOR FUNDING CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS.

"HR 3538, THE FLOOD CONTROL PROCEDURE REFORM ACT, WOULD FIRST ESTABLISH A FLOOD CONTROL SURVEY AND ENGINEERING FUND IN THE U.S. TREASURY," RAHALL POINTED OUT. "THIS FUND WOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE FOR PROJECTS APPROVED BY LAW OR RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE." CONGRESSMAN RAHALL SERVES ON THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

"SECONDLY, HR 3538, WOULD PROVIDE THAT WHERE THE NON-FEDERAL INTEREST IN A FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT IS A STATE, THE AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IS CONTINGENT UPON THE STATE'S LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS," RAHALL STATED.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OBSERVED, "AT A TIME WHEN BUDGET DEFICITS AND HIGH INFLATION MAKE IT IMPERATIVE THAT THE COST OF EVERY PROJECT BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM, DELAYS ONLY ADD TO THE COST."

THREE PROJECTS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE CORPS IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PASSAGE OF THIS MEASURE. THEY ARE: BEECH FORK LAKE, EAST LYNN LAKE, AND THE R.D. BAILEY DAM PROJECT.

"FLOOD CONTROL IS A MAJOR CONCERN, NOT ONLY IN WEST VIRGINIA, BUT IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL," RAHALL SAID. "I BELIEVE THAT WITH A UNITED EFFORT ON THE PART OF THOSE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THESE AREAS CAN BRING ABOUT MORE EFFECTIVE AND SPEEDY ACTION ON THE MUCH NEEDED PROJECTS."

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