

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 5, 1979

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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE ECONOMIC REVIVAL OF WEST VIRGINIA AND THE DOZEN OTHER STATES OF APPALACHIA, AND HAS PROVEN ITS' WORTH," SAID WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

RAHALL REMARKS CAME IN SUPPORT OF HR 3249, A MEASURE HE HAS CO-SPONSORED TO EXTEND THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1965.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OBSERVED, "AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM ONE OF THE APPALACHIAN STATES, I HAVE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE VALUABLE PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE THE A.R.C. HAS PROVIDED FOR MY STATE."

THE BECKLEY NATIVE WENT ON TO SAY, "THANKS TO THIS COMMISSION, THE ISLAND OF POVERTY THAT ONCE CHARACTERIZED APPALACHIA HAS UNDERGONE SWEEPING CHANGES SINCE CONGRESS BEGAN TO FUNNEL VITAL AID TO THIS DISTRESSED REGION IN 1965."

IN EXTENDING THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION, RAHALL STATED THAT, "PUBLIC INVESTMENTS ARE TO BE CONCENTRATED IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND FOR AREAS AFFECTED BY ENERGY DEVELOPMENT."

RAHALL SPECIFICALLY LISTED THAT HIS MEASURE WILL, "ADDRESS THE NEED FOR HUMAN SERVICES TO PEOPLE IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS; PERMIT A.R.C. ASSISTANCE IN SITE PURCHASE FOR HOUSING; HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSMEN, FARMERS, AND OTHER PRIVATE ENTERPRISES; AND THE EXTENSION OF THE A.R.C. HIGHWAY PROGRAM."

"PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BY APPALACHIAN STATES," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED, "BUT MANY NEW CHALLENGES FACE THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION, AND THE AGENCY MAY AGAIN PROVE ITS WORTH."