

Radio Feed

CONGRESSMAN

News
From _____

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO PRODUCE COAL, IT SHOULD SAY SO AND MAKE ITS' RULES AND REGULATIONS ACCORD-
INGLY," SAID WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J.
RAHALL, TODAY.

RAHALL COMMENTS CAME IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE BUDGET COM-
MITTEE'S TASK FORCE ON INFLATION, WHICH BEGAN HEARINGS INTO THE EF-
FECTS OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON INFLATION.

"IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE COAL INDUSTRY IS IN TROUBLE," RAHALL
OBSERVED, "AND IRONICALLY, THE PROBLEMS HAVE COME AT A TIME WHEN
COAL'S POTENTIAL IS AT ITS' GREATEST."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP,
POINTED OUT, "IN A PERIOD OF INFLATION IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT
TO AVOID ADDING COSTS AND PRICES AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT REGULA-
TION, HOWEVER IN REGARDS TO COAL, THE REGULATIONS HAVE NOT ONLY
FUELED INFLATION, BUT HAVE PUT PEOPLE OUT OF WORK."

RAHALL CITED STUDIES THAT SHOW THE COAL INDUSTRY WILL HAVE TO PAY
\$3 BILLION ANNUALLY TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS ON SURFACE MINING ALONE.
THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO POINTED OUT, THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME, 6,000
MINERS ARE OUT OF WORK IN WEST VIRGINIA, AND OVER 15,000 ARE LAYED-OFF
NATION-WIDE.

"DUE TO THE GROWING AND COMPLICATED PROBLEMS THAT ARE ENGULFING THE
COAL INDUSTRY," RAHALL STATED, "IT IS OBVIOUS THAT COAL WILL NOT
PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN OUR NATION'S ENERGY FUTURE UNLESS CURRENT
TRENDS ARE REVERSED."

"I DO NOT IMPLY THAT ALL REGULATORY ACTIONS SHOULD BE BANNED,"
RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "HOWEVER THE EFFECT ON PRICES AND INFLATION
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE RESULT IS WORTH THE
COST."

"THE COAL INDUSTRY CAN PROVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THE ENERGY
THEY NEED, BUT ONLY IF WASHINGTON DOES NOT BURY THEM IN A REGULATORY
NIGHTMARE," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED.

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