

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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CONTACT: MIKE SERPE
202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- "THE UNKNOWN COST OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND THE LACK OF A CLEARLY DEFINED ROLE IN ENERGY PRODUCTION IS CAUSING CHAOS IN THE COAL INDUSTRY," WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, SAID TODAY ON THE FLOOR OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

RAHALL WAS SPEAKING IN REGARDS TO COAL'S ROLE IN THE NATION'S FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS, AND THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE SURFACE MINING INDUSTRY.

"RECENTLY, INCREASING COST OF REGULATIONS FOR THE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES HAS CAUSED A SLOW DOWN IN PRODUCTION, CREATED A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE WITH FOREIGN ENERGY SOURCES, AND HAS MEANT THE LOSS OF JOBS FOR HUNDREDS OF WEST VIRGINIA MINERS," RAHALL STATED.

"WE NEED TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF CERTAINTY TO SHOW THAT THE COMMITMENT TO MAKE COAL A DOMINANT ENERGY SOURCE, IS A GENUINE AND LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT," RAHALL POINTED OUT.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "THE CURRENT UNCERTAIN ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING COAL, ADVERSELY AFFECTS EVERY FACET OF COAL PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION. IT MAKES IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SET UP LONG-TERM PLANNING THAT IS NEEDED IF THE COAL INDUSTRY IS TO RESUME A MAJOR ROLE IN OUR NATION'S ENERGY POLICY."

RAHALL MADE REFERENCE TO THE CUTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S COAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF CONCERN. "THE 15 PERCENT REDUCTION SERVES TO DISCOURAGE THE KIND OF COMMITMENT THAT IS NECESSARY TO BUILD EXPENSIVE CONVERSION FACILITIES TO GASIFY AND LIQUEFY COAL FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY," RAHALL CHARGED.

"IF THE COAL INDUSTRY IS TO MEET THE DIRECTIVE OF THE PRESIDENT TO DOUBLE PRODUCTION BY 1985, THERE MUST BE SIGNS OF ASSISTANCE ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED.