

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL PUSHES FOR BETTER COAL TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON D.C. --- "AS THIS NATION LOOKS TOWARD COAL TO FIRE ITS ELECTRIC UTILITY BOILERS AND TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR ALLIES THROUGH THE EXPORT MARKET," STRESSED CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL (D-WV), "IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE WE ARE ABLE TO TRANSPORT COAL FROM MINE TO MARKET IN A EFFICIENT AND SPEEDY MANNER."

RAHALL'S STATEMENT WAS MADE IN REFERENCE TO THE GALLIPOLIS LOCKS AND DAMS, A PROJECT THAT IS IN NEED OF MAJOR IMPROVEMENT. CONGRESSMAN RAHALL SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE \$1.6 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INLAND WATERWAY FACILITY.

"COAL TRANSPORTATION ON THE INLAND WATERWAY SYSTEM IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE TROUBLE-RIDDEN," RAHALL STATED, "AND DELAYS AND BACKLOGS COST MONEY, WHICH IS PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT, "IN 1979, THE 40 MILLION TONS THAT WERE SHIPPED THROUGH THE GALLIPOLIS SYSTEM, WERE DELAYED AN AVERAGE TIME OF EIGHT HOURS, AT A COST OF ALMOST \$3,000 PER TOW-TRANSIT," THE CONGRESSMAN WENT ON TO OBSERVE, "ESTIMATES SHOW THAT BY 1990, DELAYS TIME WILL INCREASE TO 33 HOURS AND THE COST WILL JUMP TO OVER \$11,500."

"WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY," RAHALL SAID, "BECAUSE THIS AREA INCLUDES ONE OF THE NATION'S PRINCIPAL STEEL PRODUCING COMPLEXES, AND MUCH OF THE COUNTRY'S COAL RESERVES ARE LOCATED THERE."

"IMPROVEMENTS TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE GALLIPOLIS FACILITY WILL PROVIDE EFFICIENT ACCESS AT REDUCED COSTS TO DISTANT DOMESTIC AND WORLD MARKETS FOR COAL, AND WILL NO DOUBT HELP SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED.

THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION CONCERNING GALLIPOLIS IN THE COMING WEEKS. THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IS REP. TOM BEVIL (D-GA).