

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "ANYONE WHO MAKES A DECISION THAT THE APPLACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION SHOULD BE ELIMINATED, HAS CERTAINLY NEVER SEEN THE PROGRAMS ADVANCED BY ARC IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA," OBSERVED WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, WILL PARTICIPATE IN HEARINGS NEXT WEEK ON THE FUTURE OF THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED ELIMINATING THESE AGENCIES AS PART OF THE OVERALL BUDGET CUTS.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WAS A CO-SPONSOR OF LEGISLATION PASSED IN THE LAST CONGRESS, WHICH EXTENDED ARC'S OPERATION UNTIL 1982.

"THE ARC, SINCE 1965, HAS PROVEN TO BE A WORTHWHILE PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF THE REGION," RAHALL STATED. "DURING THE 15 YEAR LIFE OF THE ARC, OVER \$2.5 BILLION HAS BEEN INVESTED IN HIGHWAYS PROGRAMS, AND ANOTHER \$1.85 BILLION HAS BEEN USED FOR SOCIAL PROJECTS," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT.

"HIGHWAYS, EDUCATION, HEALTH, MINE AREA RECLAMATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING ARE ALL PRIORITIES OF ARC, AND I PLAN TO WORK WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE, TO SEE THESE EFFORTS CONTINUE," RAHALL STRESSED.

"THE PROPOSALS TO REDUCE PRESENT ARC FUNDING WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT A NUMBER OF WEST VIRGINIA PROJECTS, SUCH AS: SEWER SYSTEMS IN RALEIGH COUNTY, THE PUBLIC BUILDING IN WELCH, AND WATER SYSTEMS IN CABELL COUNTY," RAHALL POINTED OUT.

THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON MARCH 11, 12 AND 13.