

TAPE FOR JUNE 29

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE 1981, OVER 9.7 MILLION PEOPLE RODE THE AMTRAK PASSENGER TRAIN SYSTEM. ON THE LONG DISTANCE ROUTES WHICH SERVE WEST VIRGINIA, RIDERSHIP INCREASED OVER 8 PERCENT, UP SUBSTANTIALY FROM THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME LAST YEAR.

WITH THIS IN MIND, I AM APPALLED THAT UNDER THE PROPOSALS ADVANCED BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, ALL AMTRAK PASSENGER TRAINS, EXCEPT THOSE SERVING THE NORTHEASTERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE TOTALLY ELIMINATED.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE EUROPEAN NATIONS, PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE IS REACHING AN ALL-TIME HIGH, WITH TRAINS TRAVELING WELL IN EXCESS OF 120 MILES PER HOUR.

WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES SEE THE BENEFITS OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION, THE UNITED STATES SEEMS WILLING TO SET ASIDE ONE OF THE MOST ENERGY-EFFICIENT MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNWISE TO SIMPLY SHUT DOWN THIS NATION'S PASSENGER TRAIN SYSTEM, WITH NO REGARD FOR THE INVESTMENT ALREADY MADE IN IT.

AMERICA MUST PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, AND IF IT DOES NOT, WE CAN EXPECT TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.