

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1980

CONTACT: MICHAEL SERPE  
202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED THE RAIL ACT OF 1980, (HR 7235), FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE STAGGERS/RAHALL COMPROMISE AMENDMENT.

THE COMPROMISE AMENDMENT WAS DEVELOPED BY CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS (D-WV).

"THE STAGGERS/RAHALL AMENDMENT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF RAIL CARRIERS TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE REVENUES AND OF CAPTIVE SHIPPERS, SUCH AS COAL MINES, FOR PROTECTION AGAINST UNREASONABLY HIGH RATES," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED.

"COAL IS WELL SUITED TO MOVEMENT BY RAILROAD," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "AND OFTEN HAS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO RAIL TRANSPORTATION."

"WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE RAIL ACT, CONTAINING OUR AMENDMENT," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED, "THE FAVORABLE PRICE DIFFERENTIAL FOR COAL OVER IMPORTED OIL WILL CONTINUE."

"THE RAIL ACT WILL MEAN THAT CONGRESS IS COMMITTED TO ASSURING A HEALTHY, VIABLE SYSTEM OF RAILROADS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, AND ONE THAT WILL BE CAPABLE OF DELIVERING NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AT COSTS WHICH ARE NOT UNREASONABLE."

THE SENATE PASSED A SIMILAR BILL IN APRIL. THE NEXT STEP IS NOW FOR A HOUSE/SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT A FINAL VERSION. THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN WORK IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

-30-