

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 1, 1980

CONTACT: MIKE SERPE

202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, SAID HE WAS, "PLEASED WITH THE PASSAGE OF HR 7745, WHICH WILL ELIMINATE LENGTHY PROTESTS THAT HAVE OFTEN DELAYED BENEFITS TO NEARLY 8,000 BLACK LUNG VICTIMS."

THIS MEASURE DEALS WITH THOSE PERSONS WHO RETIRED FROM THE COAL MINES DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 1970 THROUGH JULY 1, 1973.

"THESE INDIVIDUALS," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "WILL NOW HAVE THEIR CLAIMS PAID BY THE BLACK LUNG DISABILITY TRUST FUND, INSTEAD OF DIRECTLY BY THE COAL OPERATOR."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STRESSED THAT THIS BILL DOES NOT COST THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER "ONE CENT."

"THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL MEANS THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RED TAPE WILL BE CUT FOR BLACK LUNG CLAIMANTS," RAHALL SAID, "AND BOTH COAL MINERS AND COAL OPERATORS WILL SAVE EXPENSIVE LEGAL FEES THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM PROTESTED CLAIMS IN THE PAST."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, ALONG WITH CONGRESSMAN CARL PERKINS OF KENTUCKY, WERE SPONSORS OF THIS LEGISLATION.

-30-