

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 22, 1980

CONTACT: MIKE SERPE
202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, OF WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT, HAS EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSAGE OF THE 1981 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS. THE MEASURE CONTAINS \$57 MILLION TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT THE TWO SOLVENT REFINED COAL (SRC) DEMONSTRATION PLANTS, LOCATED IN MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA AND CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY.

"THE FUNDING FOR THESE PROGRAMS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY, WITH ITS FUTURE EMPHASIS ON AMERICA'S OWN ENERGY RESOURCES, NOT THE RESOURCES OF OPEC," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STRESSED.

"THE \$57 MILLION FIGURE," RAHALL WENT ON TO EXPLAIN, "IS PART OF A TOTAL FUNDING LEVEL OF \$711 MILLION TO CONTINUE EXISTING FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR VARIOUS SYN-FUEL TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS COAL LIQUEFACTION AND GASIFICATION."

"THESE EFFORTS ALL SERVE TO INCREASE COAL'S PRODUCTION AND USE," RAHALL OBSERVED.

THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS ALSO INCLUDED \$82 MILLION FOR THE ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SAID, "I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE EFFORT TO MAKE THE UNITED STATES ENERGY INDEPENDENT, AND THIS LEGISLATION GIVES SUCH AN EFFORT A MAJOR BOOST."

-30-