

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS DIRECTORS AND EDITORS:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION---THE ATTACHED LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO THE WILLIAMSON DAILY NEWS, ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 20, BY CONGRESSMAN RAHALL.

IT IS SELF-EXPLANATORY, BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US.

NICK J. RAHALL, II  
4TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 19, 1980

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Mr. Wally Warden, Editor  
WILLIAMSON DAILY NEWS  
P.O. Box 1660  
Williamson, WV 25661

Dear Wally:

I have read with great interest the numerous news accounts of the recent legislative steps to provide long-term flood protection to the residents of the Tug Valley. I am a strong supporter of these efforts and have always made the security of the Tug Valley residents a major priority. It is for this reason that I would like to take this opportunity to put in proper perspective a few points.

When the water receded in April of 1977, I was the first elected federal official on the scene. The destruction, as we all know, was extremely severe, and the rebuilding effort that followed was remarkable and a credit to the people of the region.

Upon returning to Washington D.C., I undertook steps to deal with two pressing concerns of the Valley; one, to lower the interest rates on Small Business disaster loans, and two, to investigate HUD's inept recovery program. Through a great deal of hard work, we were able to obtain both objectives. Both Houses of Congress cooperated and assisted each other in lowering the SBA rates, and our government agencies were streamlined in order to respond much quicker to natural disasters.

In 1978, with the help of the "March on Washington," progress was made towards the passage of a long-term flood protection bill and to eliminate the "cost-benefit ratio."

In early October of 1978, both the House and the Senate approved a flood protection bill. However, President Carter vetoed the proposal. Later that month, we succeeded again in getting the House to approve a bill, but due to very late favorable action by the Senate, Congress adjourned without giving it final approval. This occurred on October 15, when in the wee morning hours the Senate completed action on the Conference Report, and by the time the necessary paperwork was completed, the House did not have a sufficient number of members present to act, after being in session around the clock for two days. It was most difficult keeping members in town til 6pm that Sunday evening when the vote was actually taken.



\$10 million was approved however, for snagging and dredging of the Tug and Levisa Forks of the Big Sandy River.

In 1979, the House Public Works Committee, of which I am a member, again passed a flood protection bill for the Tug Valley. Early this year, the full House of Representatives followed up and approved the bill for the third time. However as of this date, the companion Senate bill rests in that body's Public Works Committee.

Since I have been in Congress, the House Public Works Committee, on which I serve, has passed flood protection programs for the Tug Valley on three separate occasions. As I have already pointed out, the full House of Representatives has done so as well.

It is important to point out at this time, that due to major differences in the way the House and the Senate operates, it is much easier for the Senate to attach unrelated amendments to any bill that is under consideration, thereby negating the need to act on the companion Senate bill. Such action in the House is prohibited, therefore increasing the importance for the Senate to pass a companion measure.

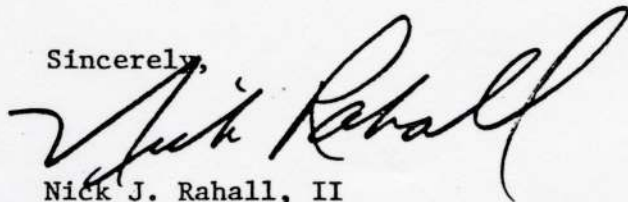
For one body of Congress to proceed in an independent fashion may lead to the false impression that the other body has "shot down" such vital legislation. Such is not the case.

To obtain the ultimate goal of long-term flood protection for the residents of the region, both the House and the Senate must approve similar bills, the President must support it, and it must be signed into law. My efforts have always been based on this assumption, and I intend to make every effort, as I always have and as my record will show, to bring about what is justified and rightfully beneficial to the people of the Tug Valley.

I would like to commend you and your staff for keeping your readers informed of these actions, and would be happy to avail myself to any questions you or your readers may have on this subject.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Rahall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick J. Rahall, II  
Member of Congress