

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "WEST VIRGINIANS WHO ARE OUT OF WORK, ARE VICTIMS OF THE RECESSION, AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN," SAID FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, TODAY.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL'S COMMENTS CAME AS HE EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS FROM 39 TO 52 WEEKS.

HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSAL WERE HELD YESTERDAY BY THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. THE PROPOSAL IS A PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ECONOMIC RENEWAL PROGRAM.

"AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE OVERALL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN WEST VIRGINIA IS 7.6 PERCENT," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "BUT IN THE COAL INDUSTRY IT IS 11.6 PERCENT, WITH OVER 7,000 PERSONS OUT OF WORK."

"THE 13 WEEK EXTENSION WILL PROVIDE THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES SOME RELIEF AS THEY TRY TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OBSERVED.

"THIS IS OF COURSE, ONLY TEMPORARY HELP," RAHALL SAID, "AND THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO GET THESE PEOPLE BACK TO WORK. BUT UNTIL THAT TIME COMES, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE KEEP THE NATION'S ECONOMY FROM SINKING ANY FURTHER."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL DID POINT OUT HOWEVER, THAT THE 13 WEEK EXTENSION IN UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION WILL NOT MEAN AN EXTENSION FOR THOSE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WHO ARE RECEIVING TRADE READJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE BENEFITS AS WELL. "IT IS HOPED THAT THE INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS WILL OFF-SET THE LOSS OF TRA BENEFITS WHEN THEY ARE EXHAUSTED," RAHALL SAID.

"OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE OUT OF WORK NOW," RAHALL STATED, "AND AT THE SAME TIME, REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY SO THAT UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS WILL AGAIN BECOME WORKING AMERICANS."

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