

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TODAY PASSED THE ECKHARDT-RAHALL AMENDMENT TO HR 7235 (RAIL ACT OF 1980).

"IN WEST VIRGINIA, AS WELL AS IN OTHER STATES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, SHIPPERS OF RAILROAD FREIGHT HAVE NO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION COMPETITION AVAILABLE TO THEM TO MOVE THEIR GOODS," STATED CON. RAHALL, "THEREFORE, THE ECKHARDT-RAHALL AMENDMENT WAS ESSENTIAL."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, ALONG WITH CON. BOB ECKHARDT (D-TEXAS), OFFERED THE MEASURE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR, AND IT PASSED BY A VOTE OF 204-197.

"THIS AMENDMENT," RAHALL OBSERVED, "IS NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT THE NEEDED BALANCE IN THE RAIL ACT'S RATEMAKING AS IT IMPACTS BOTH RAIL CARRIERS AND CAPTIVE SHIPPERS."

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

"WITHOUT ECKHARDT-RAHALL, RAILROAD COAL TRANSPORTATION RATES COULD BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY ABOUT 35 PERCENT ABOVE 1979 LEVELS," RAHALL NOTED, "ABOUT \$348 MILLION."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "THIS AMENDMENT WILL NOT DENY RAILROADS WARRANTED REVENUES, RATHER IT WILL SIMPLY PERMIT THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION TO REVIEW SHIPPING RATES THAT MAY BE INFLATIONARY."

"CAPTIVE COAL MINES MUST BE PROTECTED AGAINST INCREASING SHIPPING RATES," RAHALL STRESSED, "BECAUSE MINES CANNOT BE MOVED TO A CHEAPER TRANSPORTATION SOURCE."

"IF COAL IS TO BE KING AGAIN, WE MUST NOT RETREAT FROM THOSE EFFORTS," RAHALL CONCLUDED, "WE MUST MOVE FORWARD."

-30-