

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "BECAUSE ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD'S COAL RESERVES LIE BENEATH OUR OWN SOIL, AMERICA IS NOT ENERGY POOR, IT IS ENERGY RICH; BUT OUR WEALTH WILL BE SQUANDERED AWAY IF WE DO NOT MAKE THE PROPER INVESTMENTS NOW, STRESSED WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, IN TESTIMONY SUPPORTING COAL CONVERSION LEGISLATION.

RAHALL'S REMARKS CAME AT THE HOUSE ENERGY AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE'S OPENING HEARING ON HR 6930, THE POWERPLANT FUEL CONSERVATION ACT OF 1980.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY REP. JOHN DINGELL (D-MICH), WHO ALONG WITH REP. RAHALL AND REP. HARLEY O. STAGGERS (D-WV), SUBMITTED THE COAL CONVERSION BILL LAST WEEK.

"BY INCREASING THE CONSUMPTION OF COAL," RAHALL OBSERVED, "ACTIVITY WILL BE TRIGGERED THROUGHOUT THE COAL INDUSTRY AND THE COAL FIELDS THEMSELVES."

"THE LABOR FORCE, TRANSPORTATION OF COAL, AND LOCAL BUSINESSES WILL ALL BENEFIT," RAHALL SAID.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL DID ADMIT HOWEVER, THAT PASSAGE OF THE CONVERSION BILL WILL NOT BE EASY. "ALREADY UTILITY COMPANIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS ARE LOBBYING AGAINST CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATION," THE CONGRESSMAN POINTED OUT.

"IN REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY THAT DO NOT HAVE A COAL MINING TRADITION, THERE ARE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT COAL BEING A DIRTY AND UNSAFE ENERGY SOURCE," RAHALL STATED, "BUT AS THE CONSIDERATION OF HR 6930 MOVES FORWARD, I BELIEVE ATTITUDES WILL BE CHANGED."

"THIS COAL CONVERSION BILL PROVIDES US WITH THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE OUR MOST ABUNDANT FUEL SOURCE, WITHOUT DEGRADING THE ENVIRONMENT," RAHALL OBSERVED.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED, "THAT COAL CAN PROVIDE ENERGY FOR THE UNITED STATES INTO THE NEXT CENTURY AND BEYOND."