

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 1980

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Washington D.C. --- The House Surface Transportation Subcommittee has approved a \$1.7 Billion program to assist States in the up-grading and construction of energy impacted roads, highways and railroad crossings.

"This measure is essential to an over-all national energy program," said Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, a committee member and a sponsor of the bill.

Rahall pointed out, "HR 6417, the Surface Transportation Act of 1980, will make funds available to allow for the smooth and safe transport of coal and other important energy resources."

"The program will allocate \$1.750 Billion over the next five years, with \$250 million coming this year and increasing by \$50 million each year to \$450 million by 1985," Rahall observed.

For the State of West Virginia, Rahall stated, "Our State could receive a maximum of \$30 Million this year, and as much as \$54 Million in 1985."

All programs funded by this bill will be funded at 80 percent by the Federal Government and 20 percent by the State and local governments.

Congressman Rahall expects quick action by the Congress on this measure. "We are working towards a May 15 deadline in the Public Works and Transportation Committee, and hope that the Senate can move ahead with speedy action."

"This program is long over-due," Rahall went on to say. "We must be able to get our energy resources to where they are needed most, and I believe this bill will greatly help in that effort."

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