

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, TODAY CALLED UPON THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO TAKE SWIFT ACTION ON A FUNDING PROPOSAL THAT WOULD GUARANTEE BENEFIT CHECKS FOR BLACK LUNG RECIPIENTS AFTER MAY 1.

IN A LETTER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, REP. JAMIE WHITTEN, (D-MISS), CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED, "SINCE BY LAW, BLACK LUNG CLAIMANTS ARE ENTITLED TO THESE CHECKS, I URGE THAT ACTION BE TAKEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE WITHOUT DELAY."

RAHALL POINTED OUT, THAT ONLY BLACK LUNG CLAIMANTS, WHO WERE APPROVED AFTER 1974, AND ARE PAID BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, NEED TO QUESTION THE STATUS OF THEIR CHECKS.

"THIS FUNDING PROPOSAL CALLS FOR \$455 MILLION TO BE PUT INTO THE BLACK LUNG TRUST FUND," RAHALL STATED.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL SAID, "IF FOR ANY REASON THE FUNDS ARE NOT APPROPRIATED BY MAY 1, THERE WILL BE ONLY A SHORT DELAY BEFORE CHECKS ARE MAILED OUT." BUT THE CONGRESSMAN STRESSED, "RETIRED MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL BE PAID WHAT THEY DESERVE, BECAUSE IN THESE TIMES OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION, NO INCOME WOULD BE A VERY SEVERE BLOW TO THEIR WAY OF LIFE."

IN CONCLUSION, RAHALL OBSERVED, "CHAIRMAN WHITTEN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE ARE WELL AWARE OF THIS SITUATION, AND I AM SURE THEY WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MONEY IS THERE."

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