

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- FOLLOWING A TWO HOUR MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BLACK LUNG OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA, WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL STATED, "I BELIEVE POSITIVE STEPS WILL BE MADE TO MAKE THE BLACK LUNG PROGRAM MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF COAL MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES."

TODAY'S SESSION WAS THE RESULT OF RAHALL'S LETTER TO SECRETARY OF LABOR RAY MARSHALL, LAST MONTH, OUTLINING SPECIFIC DOWNFALLS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S PROCESSING OF BLACK LUNG CLAIMS.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OFFERED THE USE OF HIS FOUR DISTRICT OFFICES IN, HUNTINGTON, LOGAN, BLUEFIELD AND BECKLEY, AS SITES FOR HEARINGS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.

"MANY TIMES MINERS HAVE TO TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES TO HAVE THEIR CASES HEARD," RAHALL POINTED OUT. "A MORE CONVENIENT LOCATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR MINERS IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA, AND I BELIEVE MY OFFICES MAY AFFORD THAT CONVENIENCE."

TAKING PART IN THE MEETING FROM THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA WERE, B.P. LEWELLAN, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR; JOE DAVIDSON, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 29; JOHN TAYLOR, DISTRICT 17 COUNSEL; J.E. HINKLE AND DAVID FINK, DISTRICT 29; AND BILL BAILEY, PRESIDENT OF THE WEST VIRGINIA BLACK LUNG ASSOCIATION.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, RALPH HARTMAN, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION; JAMES YOCUM, HEAD OF COAL MINER'S COMPENSATION; HERBERT FISHLER AND EVERETT JENNINGS OF COAL MINER'S COMPENSATION OF D.O.L.

"EVERYONE KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW," RAHALL STRESSED, "WE CAN NOW GO FORWARD AND CARRY OUT THE INTENT OF THE BLACK LUNG PROGRAM."

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