

WTNJ TAPE FOR NOV. 18

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

THE RECENT MINE DISASTER IN BOONE COUNTY, WHICH COST THE LIVES OF FIVE WEST VIRGINIA COAL MINERS, WILL NO DOUBT RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO THE SAFETY OF COAL MINING AS AN OCCUPATION.

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR NATION'S COAL MINERS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TOP PRIORITY OF MINE. JUST AS I BELIEVE COAL IS OUR GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE--THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER RESOURCE TO AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE, THE COAL MINER.

I FEEL VERY STRONGLY, THAT ONE MINER INJURED IS ONE TOO MANY. THAT ONE CASE OF BLACK LUNG IS ONE TOO MANY. THAT ONE MINE CLOSED DUE TO SAFETY VIOLATIONS IS ONE TOO MANY. AND CERTAINLY, THE DEATH OF ONE COAL MINER IS ONE TOO MANY.

WITH THE COMING CHANGE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION, I PLAN TO FIGHT TO MAKE SURE THE TREND TOWARD THE MINIMAL FUNDING OF THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT CONTINUE.

AS PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF COAL ARE EXPANDED, SO MUST THE PROGRAMS FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COAL MINER. THE TWO GO TOGETHER, AND I INTEND TO WORK TO SEE TO IT THAT THE AMERICAN COAL MINER IS PROTECTED.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.