

WTNJ TAPE FOR DEC. 9

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

AS THE 96TH CONGRESS ~~COMPLETED ITS BUSINESS~~ ^{has nearly the end} LAST WEEK, ^{have been} A NUMBER OF MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION WERE APPROVED, ONE OF WHICH WILL MEAN A BIG BOOST TO THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

A \$1.5 BILLION DOLLAR PROGRAM ^{for coal haul roads} WAS PASSED, TO ASSIST STATES IN THE UP-GRADING AND CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, WHICH ARE HEAVILY TRAVELED TO MOVE DOMESTIC ENERGY RESOURCES, LIKE COAL.

OUR STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, STANDS TO RECEIVE AS MUCH AS \$36 MILLION IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THIS PROGRAM, AND AS MUCH AS \$54 MILLION IN 1985.

I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF THIS LEGISLATION, AS A CO-SPONSOR AND AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

AS COAL MOVES TO THE FOREFRONT OF OUR NATION'S ENERGY PICTURE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN PLACE THAT IS CAPABLE OF MOVING THESE INCREASING AMOUNTS OF COAL SAFELY. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THESE SAME ROADS REMAIN SAFE FOR THE DAILY USE OF ALL WEST VIRGINIANS.

60 PERCENT OF ALL THE COAL MINED IN APPALACHIA IS TRANSPORTED BY TRUCK FROM MINE TO MARKET. THIS COAL-HAUL ROADS BILL WAS LONG OVERDUE, BUT I AM PLEASED WE WERE ABLE TO GAIN APPROVAL OF THIS MEASURE, AND THAT NOW STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH A NUMBER ONE CONCERN OF US ALL.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.