

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 16, 1982

CONTACT: MIKE SERPE
202-225-3452

RAHALL ANNOUNCES SYMPOSIUM ON ACID RAIN

WASHINGTON D.C. --- CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, (D-WV), CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE GROUP WILL SPONSOR AN ACID RAIN SYMPOSIUM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 22, AT 2PM IN 2167 RAYBURN.

PRESENTATIONS WILL BE MADE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, THE ADMINISTRATION, LABOR AND THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY.

RAHALL STATED THE REASON FOR THE COAL GROUP PUTTING ON SUCH A SYMPOSIUM, "AS REPRESENTATIVES OF AREAS WHICH PRODUCE AND USE COAL, WE HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN FINDING OUT WHETHER THE PREPONDERANCE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN SUPPORT NEW REGULATORY CONTROLS ON COAL-FIRED POWERPLANTS."

"BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE BEING GIVEN TO THE ACID RAIN QUESTION DURING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT," RAHALL SAID, "SCIENCE AND NOT EMOTIONS MUST GUIDE OUR DELIBERATIONS OVER INCLUSION OF ANY ACID RAIN PROVISION IN THE ACT."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL IS THE SPONSOR OF HR 5055, A BILL THAT CALLS FOR THE SPEED-UP OF RESEARCH ON ACID RAIN, SINCE NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE CURRENTLY EXISTS TO SUPPORT IMMEDIATE AND COSTLY CONTROLS ON THE USE OF COAL.

"ACID RAIN IS NOT ONLY AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE," RAHALL STRESSED, "IT IS VERY MUCH A CONSUMER ISSUE."

THOSE MAKING PRESENTATIONS AT THE SYMPOSIUM INCLUDE: DR. VOLKER MOHNNEN, DIRECTOR OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK; KATHLEEN BENNETT, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF E.P.A. FOR AIR, NOISE AND RADIATION; SAM HALL, AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY; AND MIKE BUCKER AND CHARLES GRIMM OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS.

NICK J. RAHALL, II
5TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

440 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3452

DISTRICT OFFICES:

815 FIFTH AVENUE
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701
(304) 522-NICK

BAIR BUILDING
BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA 25801
(304) 252-5000

1005 FEDERAL BUILDING
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701
(304) 325-8222

R K BUILDING
LOGAN, WEST VIRGINIA 25601
(304) 752-4934

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 3, 1982

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Dear Colleague:

The lack of factual information in the area of atmospheric chemistry and solid evidence linking acid rain to coal-burning in the Mid-West continues to plague any serious consideration of methods to alleviate the damage caused by this phenomenon.

Consider what two New Englanders have to say about proposals seeking immediate new controls on coal-fired powerplants as a method of reducing the occurrence of acid rain:

"I'm afraid that we will all give our blessing to a 10% reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions that can be achieved through coal washing, scrubbers and other strategies and then in five or 10 years look back at the mess and say that it didn't do a darn bit of good. That's dangerous because it hurts the scientific community and it hurts the overall environmental cause."

--Dr. Volker Mohnen, State University
of New York

"Until recently, we at the University of Rhode Island, who are staunch advocates of the importance of long-range transport of air pollution because of our research in the Arctic, would have gone along with the new bills without a second thought. But we have quite accidentally produced some new data which cast doubt on part of the current picture, and, we believe, calls for a more careful look at the entire system of sources and transport of acidity in the Northeast before major action strongly oriented toward a particular region is taken."

--Kenneth Rahn, University of Rhode Island

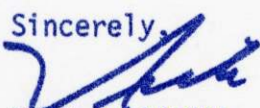
Congress recognized there was not enough evidence on the causes and effects of acid deposition when it passed the Energy Security Act last year. Title VII of this law created an interagency federal Acid Precipitation Task Force and a 10-year study program. The situation, I believe, has not changed enough in one-year's time to warrant enactment of costly new legislation seeking a massive regulatory program to control acid rain. And, I believe, the scientific community agrees.

However, with the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, new pressures have been created to include an acid rain control program. Because of my belief that Congress should not accept such proposals without the benefit of sound scientific data, I have introduced legislation to accelerate the present 10-year program to five years. Without a doubt, we would be in a better position to consider control measures five years hence armed with a final report by the Task Force. This legislation provides the Congress with a prudent option, void of emotionally-induced claims on acid rain, to place this issue in perspective.

If you would like to cosponsor H.R. 5055, or need additional information, please contact Jim Zoia of my staff at x53452.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,


NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress