

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 11, 1982

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NEW HIGHWAY BILL CONTAINS RAHALL COAL ROAD PROVISION

WASHINGTON D.C. --- THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED LEGISLATION THAT CONTAINS A PROVISION OFFERED BY WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL, THAT WILL ASSIST STATES IN THE UP-GRADING AND CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS THAT ARE HEAVILY USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL AND OTHER ENERGY RESOURCES.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, AUTHORED AND SPONSORED THE AMENDMENT TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1982, HR 6211.

"MY PROVISION," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "ADDRESSES A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL AND OTHER ENERGY SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES."

"21 STATES HAVE OVER 34,000 MILES OF ROADWAY THAT IS USED FOR THE HAULING OF COAL," RAHALL STATED, "AND DUE TO THE CONSTANT HEAVY USE OF THESE ROADS, THREE-QUARTERS OF THEM WILL REQUIRE SOME FORM OF REPAIR BY 1985."

"FOR THIS REASON, MY PROVISION IS NECESSARY," RAHALL SAID.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL EXPLAINED THE NEED FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN DEALING WITH THE COAL-HAUL ROAD PROBLEM: "THE MOVEMENT OF COAL TO OUT-OF-STATE MARKETS JUSTIFIES THE NEED FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE. ENERGY IS A NATIONAL ISSUE, AND THE TAXPAYERS IN AN ENERGY PRODUCING STATE LIKE WEST VIRGINIA SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY THE COST OF KEEPING THEIR ROADS IN GOOD REPAIR ALL BY THEMSELVES."

"COAL IS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT MOVES ALONG ROADS IN WEST VIRGINIA," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STRESSED, "SCHOOL BUSES, PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY TO WORK AND PERFORMING DAY-TO-DAY TASKS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FACE A SAFETY HAZARD EVERYDAY."

THE MEASURE NOW GOES BEFORE THE FULL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR FINAL ACTION.