

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL WANTS FUNDS TO REPAIR COAL ROADS

WASHINGTON D.C. --- CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, OF WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT, IS WORKING TO HAVE FUNDING INCLUDED IN THE 1982 FEDERAL HIGHWAY BILL TO ASSIST STATES IN THE UP-GRADING AND CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS THAT ARE HEAVILY USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL AND OTHER ENERGY RESOURCES.

RAHALL POINTED OUT, "TWO YEARS AGO, THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE, STATED THAT 34,000 MILES OF ROADS IN 21 STATES ARE USED FOR COAL-HAULING."

"DUE TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY ENERGY TRANSPORTATION," RAHALL WENT ON TO OBSERVE, "THREE-QUARTERS OF THESE ROADS WILL REQUIRE SOME FORM OF REPAIR BY 1985."

"ALREADY IN APPALACHIA, AND ESPECIALLY IN WEST VIRGINIA, WE CAN SEE THE GREAT NEED TO IMPROVE THE ROADS THAT ARE NOT ONLY USED FOR THE MOVEMENT OF COAL, BUT FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY USE OF THE RESIDENTS IN THESE AREAS," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STRESSED.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL FURTHER EXPLAINED WHY FEDERAL LEGISLATION IS NEEDED TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION; "THE SHIPMENT OF COAL TO OUT-OF-STATE MARKETS JUSTIFIES THE NEED FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE. THE ENERGY ISSUE IS A NATIONAL ISSUE, AND THE TAXPAYERS IN AN ENERGY PRODUCING STATE LIKE WEST VIRGINIA SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE IN MEETING THE EXPENSE OF REPAIRING THEIR ROADS, DUE TO ENERGY RELATED TRANSPORTATION."

"IN ADDITION," RAHALL SAID, "MY EFFORTS ALSO ENCOMPASS THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ENERGY TRANSPORTATION AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS."

RAHALL'S PROPOSAL IS TO ALLOW STATES THE CHOICE OF WHETHER TO USE FUNDS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE RAIL-HIGHWAY CROSSINGS PROGRAM FOR THEIR CURRENT PURPOSE, OR FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND RESTORATION OF ENERGY IMPACTED ROADS.