

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 14, 1982

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RAHALL COAL ROAD PROPOSAL ACCEPTED

WASHINGTON D.C. --- A PLAN TO ALLOW STATES THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE RESTORATION OF COAL HAUL ROADS OFFERED BY WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE AND INCORPORATED INTO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1982.

RAHALL, A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, AUTHORED AND SPONSORED THE AMENDMENT TO THE MAJOR HIGHWAY LEGISLATION, HR 6211.

"UNDER MY PLAN," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL EXPLAINED, "STATES MAY GIVE PRIORITY STATUS TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ROADS THAT ARE IN NEED OF REPAIR DUE TO ENERGY-RELATED TRAFFIC."

RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "THE FEDERAL SHARE OF SUCH PROJECTS WOULD BE 85 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COST, RATHER THAN 75 PERCENT, AND THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA COULD USE ANY OF ITS \$13.4 MILLION FOR PRIMARY ROADS AND \$5.1 MILLION FOR SECONDARY ROADS TO PERFORM THE NECESSARY REPAIRS OR RECONSTRUCTION OF COAL HAUL ROADS IN THE STATE."

"THIS MEASURE ADDRESSES A CRITICAL PROBLEM IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL AND OTHER ENERGY SOURCES IN THIS COUNTRY," RAHALL SAID, "AND FURTHERMORE, TAKES A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS REDUCING THE SAFETY HAZARD WHICH EXISTS FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL THESE SAME ROADS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS."

THE TRANSPORTATION BILL NOW GOES BEFORE THE FULL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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