

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## EUROPE WANTS U.S. COAL, SAYS RAHALL

WASHINGTON D.C. --- "EUROPEAN COAL BUYERS WANT AMERICAN AND WEST VIRGINIA COAL," FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL SAID TODAY, "AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DO ALL WE CAN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS POTENTIALLY LUCRATIVE MARKET."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP, MADE HIS COMMENTS UPON RETURN FROM A COAL EXPORT MISSION WHICH HE PARTICIPATED IN. THE TRIP, SPONSORED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND STATE, TOOK THE CONGRESSMAN TO SPAIN AND ITALY.

"THIS MISSION WAS VERY PRODUCTIVE," RAHALL OBSERVED, "BECAUSE IT MADE VERY CLEAR AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN COAL BUYERS, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THEIR MOST RELIABLE AND SECURE COAL SUPPLIER."

RAHALL, HOWEVER TEMPERED HIS OPTIMISM WITH THE FACT THAT THESE BUYERS DO HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED. "THE COAL BUYERS THAT I MET WITH, EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE SO-CALLED CARGO PREFERENCE LEGISLATION WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEFORE THE CONGRESS." "THIS MEASURE," RAHALL EXPLAINED, "WOULD REQUIRE THAT 40 PERCENT OF ALL U.S. COMMODITIES EXPORTED, WOULD HAVE TO BE SHIPPED BY U.S. MADE AND MANNED SHIPS. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE COST OF AMERICAN COAL."

"THE QUALITY OF OUR HARBORS WAS ANOTHER CONCERN THAT WAS EXPRESSED TO ME," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL SAID, "AND THIS WILL INTENSIFY MY EFFORTS TO SEE OUR PORTS AND HARBORS UP-GRADED TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF EXPORT COAL."

"AS FOR THE QUESTION OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT STABILITY, WE POINTED OUT TO THE EUROPEANS THAT THERE IS GREATER PEACE IN THE COAL FIELDS NOW THAN THERE HAS BEEN FOR A LONG TIME, AND THIS SHOULD SERVE TO FURTHER STRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF POTENTIAL BUYERS OVERSEAS, AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH OUR COAL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES," RAHALL STATED.