

TAPE FOR WEEK OF JULY 26

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE SPENT EACH YEAR BY THE UNITED STATES ON OUR MILITARY INSTALLTIONS IN EUROPE. IN THE PAST, ENERGY FOR THESE BASES WAS PROVIDED BY AMERICAN COAL--BUT NOW--THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS OPENED UP TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING, THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FOREIGN COAL PRODUCERS TO PROVIDE OUR MILITARY BASES WITH THEIR COAL.

SUCH ACTION CAN HAVE SEVERE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE AMERICAN COAL INDUSTRY. IN ADDITION, IT RUNS CONTRARY TO U.S. POLICY GOALS OF ACHIEVING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE---A GOAL ESPECIALLY CRITICAL IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

IF SUCH A POLICY IS ALLOWED TO PROCEED, OUR COAL INDUSTRY COULD LOSE \$18 MILLION IN SALES, AND 8,000 MINERS COULD BE PUT OUT OF WORK.

NO IS NOT THE TIME TO FURTHER ERODE AMERICA'S ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS, AND I PLAN TO SEE THIS NEW POLICY STOPPED BEFORE IT HARMS AMERICAN COAL AND AMERICAN COAL MINERS.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.