

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR RELEASE:
FEBRUARY 9, 1983

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RAHALL INTRODUCES WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT MEASURE

WASHINGTON D.C. --- STATING ON THE HOUSE FLOOR THAT, "FOR TOO LONG THE CONGRESS HAS IGNORED THE CONDITION OF MANY LOCKS AND DAMS ON THE INLAND WATERWAY SYSTEM," REP. NICK J. RAHALL, (D-WV), TODAY INTRODUCED THE CRITICAL WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1983.

RAHALL'S LEGISLATION WOULD AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF FIVE LOCK AND DAM FACILITIES--FOUR OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN WEST VIRGINIA. THEY ARE: GALLIPOLIS LOCK AND DAM ON THE OHIO RIVER; LOCK AND DAM #7 AND #8 ON THE MONONGAHALIA RIVER, NEAR MORGANTOWN; AND WINFIELD LOCK AND DAM ON THE KANAWHA RIVER, NEAR CHARLESTON. THE FIFTH PROJECT IS THE OLIVER LOCK AND DAM, NEAR TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA.

"THESE FIVE FACILITIES REPRESENT CRITICAL BOTTLENECKS IN THE EASTERN INLAND WATERWAY SYSTEM," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT. "THE OHIO RIVER AND ITS KEY UPPER OHIO BASIN TRIBUTARIES, PARTICULARLY THE MONONGAHALIA AND KANAWHA RIVERS, TOGETHER WITH THE WARRIOR RIVER, ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE MOVEMENT OF COAL PRODUCED IN THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL COAL-PRODUCING STATES," RAHALL SAID.

RAHALL EXPLAINED THAT, "MANY KEY LOCKS AND DAMS WERE CONSTRUCTED OVER 50 YEARS AGO AND BUILT TO SPECIFICATIONS MEANT TO HANDLE TRAFFIC FROM THAT PERIOD. AS A RESULT, LONG DELAYS ARE OCCURRING AT MANY FACILITIES AND THE RATE OF MISHAPS ARE ON THE RISE."

"FOR EXAMPLE," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "DELAYS COST AS HIGH AS \$6000 PER TRANSIT AT GALLIPOLIS, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF IMPROVEMENTS, CONGESTION AT THE FACILITY WILL BLOCK 15 MILLION TONS OF CARGO A YEAR."

"THREATENED IS THE EFFICIENCY AND FUTURE VIABILITY OF THE MOST ECONOMICAL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION," RAHALL STATED. "IF LEFT UN-ATTENDED THIS SITUATION WILL HAVE FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS THROUGH THE ECONOMIC STABILITY OF OUR NATION," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OBSERVED.

RAHALL'S MEASURE IS ESTIMATED TO COST \$700 MILLION, AND HAS 12 ORIGINAL CO-SPONSORS.