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TRADE ADJUSTMENT BILL SHOULD PASS, SAYS RAHALL

Washington D.C. --- "Important legislation to the jobless in West Virginia and throughout America, will be one of the first orders of business when Congress resumes this week," observed West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall.

HR 3391, the Worker and Firm Trade Adjustment Assistance Bill, will be considered by the House on Sept. 12. The current Trade Adjustment Assistance program expires on September 30.

"With West Virginia still leading the nation in unemployment, and with employment in the State's leading industry--coal--at an 82 year low, this bill is important in retraining the unemployed for new jobs," Congressman Rahall pointed out.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance program was begun in 1962, and expanded in 1974. It was established to meet the severe impacts caused to American workers who lost their jobs due to increased foreign imports.

"HR 3391, will extend the current TAA program for another two years," Rahall stated. "This effort continues to be needed to target training, job search and job relocation benefits to workers displaced by imports," Rahall stressed.

Congressman Rahall also pointed out, "This measure will finally implement a commitment to retrain workers--a commitment that was cutback due to the Reagan Administration's Budget in 1981."

Funds for the retraining of unemployed workers, will be provided by this legislation to the individual State Employment Agencies, who will in turn administer the TAA Program.