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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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## RAHALL SAYS, CONTROLS MAY COST COAL JOBS

Columbus, Ohio --- In remarks prepared for delivery to the United Mine Workers of America Conference on Acid Rain, West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, said, "If we rush head-long into the "control acid rain now--ask questions" later philosophy, I fear in the near future we will be experiencing a policy fiasco that will cost American consumers billions of wasted dollars, and displace thousands of more coal miners from their jobs."

Congressman Rahall, chairman of the Congressional Coal Group, is scheduled to address the Acid Rain Conference on Tuesday, April 5, at 10:45am.

In his remarks, Congressman Rahall discussed legislation--HR 1405--which he has authored, that would provide for an accelerated study of acid rain with particular emphasis on how any such controls would impact employment and economic growth.

"Those of us knowledgeable about the current condition of the coal industry, fully realize the importance of public policy being based on fact--not emotions--in the acid rain debate," Rahall stressed, "and as a representative from the State that ranks number one in the nation in the rate of unemployment, I will not let irrationality put more of my constituents into the unemployment lines, rather than in the payroll lines," Congressman Rahall stated.

To the sponsors of the Conference, the U.M.W.A., Congressman Rahall pointed out, "Through your efforts and leadership, safer working conditions, a Black Lung Benefits Law, and fairer wages are available to coal miners and their families. But, today we are striving to save jobs, an ever decreasing commodity in the coal industry."

44 Members of the House of Representatives are co-sponsors of Rahall's Acid Rain Bill. "I am hopeful that swift consideration can be given this measure for the good of our nation's economy and for the good of its people," Rahall concluded.