

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: MICHAEL SERPE
202-225-3452

RAHALL WANTS FACTS--NOT THEORIES ON ACID RAIN

WASHINGTON D.C. --- STATING THAT, "WE MUST ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ACID RAIN FROM A SCIENTIFIC, RATHER THAN EMOTIONAL, PERSPECTIVE," WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL HAS INTRODUCED, HR 1405, THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO EXAMINE THE ACID RAIN SITUATION ON AN ACCELERATED BASIS AND SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO CONGRESS BY FY 1987.

"SUCH A REPORT WOULD CONTAIN INFORMATION ON THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN, INCLUDING DATA ON HOW IT COULD BE CONTROLLED, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY HOW SUCH CONTROLS WOULD IMPACT EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH," RAHALL POINTED OUT.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP WENT ON TO SAY, "REGARDLESS OF THE RHETORIC ON THE SUBJECT, THERE IS STILL NO SOLID SCIENTIFIC PROOF THAT EMISSIONS FROM COAL-FIRED PLANTS ARE THE SOLE CAUSE OF ACID RAIN."

"WITHOUT COMPREHENSIVE FACTS, CONGRESS COULD ENACT LEGISLATION TO STOP ACID RAIN THAT WOULD COST CONSUMERS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, DISPLACE THOUSANDS OF COAL MINERS FROM THEIR JOBS, AND WREAK HAVOC ON WHOLE INDUSTRIES AND ECONOMIES," RAHALL SAID.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, 17 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE JOINED AS CO-SPONSORS ON CONGRESSMAN RAHALL'S MEASURE. THEY ARE: REPS. PERKINS, (D-KY); BEVILL, (D-ALA); MURPHY, (D-PA); APPELEGATE, (D-OH); BLILEY, (R-VA); WILSON, (D-TX); YOUNG, (R-ALASKA); RATCHFORD, (D-CT); FASCELL, (D-FL); GINGRICH, (R-GA); STOKES, (D-OH); OWENS, (D-NY); HORTON, (R-NY); COATS, (R-IN); EDGAR, (D-PA); SMITH, (D-FLA), MOLLOHAN, (D-WV).

"I AM PLEASED WITH THE BROAD REGIONAL AND BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR THIS MEASURE," RAHALL OBSERVED, "AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT SWIFT CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO HR 1405, FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION'S ENVIRONMENT AND FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION'S ECONOMY."

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**** A FACT SHEET ON HR 1405 IS ON THE REVERSE SIDE ****

"Acidic Deposition Study and Ecosystem Mitigation Act"
introduced by Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II

- **States that acid deposition has the potential to contribute to higher levels of acidity in aquatic and terrestrial systems and that sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from stationary and mobile sources have been identified as possible contributing elements in the creation of acid deposition.
- **States that the atmospheric chemistry relating to precursor emission conversion into sulfates and nitrates is not well understood and can be influenced by a variety of factors.
- **States that precombustion fuel treatment and inherently low-polluting combustion technologies may prove to be valuable in reducing the amount of acid deposition.
- **States that the comprehensive research plan established under the Acid Precipitation Act of 1980 provides an established framework for examining the causes and effects of acid deposition and that more information is necessary before undertaking new control strategies.
- **Creates an accelerated reporting requirement on the EPA Administrator by requiring a report within five fiscal years following the period the comprehensive research plan established under the Acid Precipitation Act of 1980 was submitted to the President and Congress (FY82). Thus, the reporting date would be FY87.
- **The report shall consider the causes and effects of acid deposition, methods for controlling precursor emissions and the impact these technologies would have on economic growth and employment, among other items.
- **In preparing the report, the EPA Administrator must provide for State and public participation.
- **Authorizes the EPA Administrator to make grants to the States to mitigate harmful effects on ecosystems resulting from high acidity. The Federal share of any projects under this section may not exceed 75 percent.
- **Authorizes sums necessary to prepare the report and to make the grants.