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RAHALL OPPOSES U.S. STEEL VENTURE WITH BRITIAN

Washington D.C. --- West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, has expressed his strong displeasure with a proposed arrangement between U.S. Steel and the British Steel Corporation, that will cost Americans steelworkers their jobs.

"U.S. Steel has proposed importing three million tons of unfinished slab steel from the British Steel Corporation," Rahall pointed out. "This action will force the closing of a U.S. Steel facility in eastern Pennsylvania, and put over 3,000 workers on the unemployment lines," Rahall said.

In discussing the impact this action will have on southern West Virginia, Congressman Rahall stressed, "Since we provide the coal to fuel the coking furnaces for steel production, this is a disheartening signal to those coal miners who are already out of work."

"Recent statistics show that the unemployment rate in the coal fields is increasing--not decreasing," Rahall said. "The coal producing counties, such as: Raleigh, McDowell, Logan, Mingo and Wyoming all showed increases in unemployed persons from July to August," the Congressman pointed out.

Congressman Rahall, who is chairman of the Congressional Coal Group, has joined a number of his colleagues as a sponsor of H. Con. Res. 10, which expresses Congress' opposition to the U.S. Steel, British venture.

"If American steel companies themselves begin to buy steel from abroad, they will not only be responsible for their own self-destruction, but will put hundreds of more coal miners out of work," Rahall charged.

"This cannot be allowed to happen," the Congressman pledged.

Rahall also pointed out that, "This venture could indeed be in violation of United States laws regarding unfair trade practices."

"The American steel industry must say "yes" to modernization, not "yes" to imports," Rahall observed.

"America's industrial base must undertake a revitalization, not a surrender to foreign competition," Congressman Rahall suggested. "At stake is the future of creative American enterprise, and with it, millions of jobs," Rahall concluded.