

TAPE FOR WEEK OF AUG. 15

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

SINCE ITS BEGINNING, WEST VIRGINIA HAS BEEN THE HOME OF SOME OF AMERICA'S PROUDEST AND HARDEST WORKING INDIVIDUALS--THE RAILROAD WORKERS.

RECENTLY, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO PROTECT THE RETIREMENTS FUNDS OF THESE WORKERS, APPROVED THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT SOLVENCY ACT OF 1983. I AM HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN A CO-SPONSOR AND STRONG SUPPORTER OF THIS BILL.

THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT SYSTEM HAS BEEN UNDERGOING EXTREME HARDSHIPS BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF WORKERS PAYING INTO THE SYSTEM HAS DRASTICALLY DECLINED AS RAILROAD EMPLOYMENT HAS FALLEN. IN 1981, THE RAILROADS EMPLOYED WELL OVER 500,000 PERSONS. TODAY, THAT NUMBER HAS DROPPED TO A LITTLE OVER 300,000.

THE MEASURE APPROVED BY THE HOUSE IS THE PRODUCT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN RAILROAD LABR AND MANAGEMENT. THROUGH THEIR COMBINED EFFORTS, ALONG WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE, RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO RAILROAD WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL NOT BE REDUCED IN THE COMING MONTHS, AS PREVIOUSLY FEARED.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.