

TAPE FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 1

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

LAST WEEK, I TOLD MY COLLEAGUES ON THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE, THAT IF RAILROAD SHIPPING RATES ARE ALLOWED TO INCREASE FURTHER, IT WILL HAVE FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES ON THE ABILITY OF THE COAL INDUSTRY TO SUPPLY THE NATION AND THE WORLD WITH AN ECONOMICAL ENERGY SOURCE.

WE ARE AWARE, THAT IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA THE HEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE COAL AND RAILROADS INDUSTRIES ARE INTERTWINGED. WITHOUT ECONOMICAL RAIL TRANSPORTATION--COAL CANNOT REACH ITS MARKETS, AND WITHOUT COAL DEMAND--RAILROADS WOULD LOSE THEIR PROFITABILITY.

I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROTECT COAL PRODUCERS FROM ADDITIONAL, EXHOBIDENT RAIL COST INCREASES--BECAUSE AT STAKE ARE COUNTLESS COAL MINING JOBS, HERE IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA, AS WELL AS THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE COAL INDUSTRY.

I URGED-~~THE~~ TO CONSIDER MY BILL, BECAUSE IF ANY BOOM FOR COAL IS HOPED FOR, RAIL SHIPPING RATES WILL HAVE TO BE KEPT AT REASONABLE LEVELS.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.