This is Congressman Nick Rahall.

I am pleased to report that last week, the House of Representatives approved legislation to continue the operation of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and I am proud to have been one of the sponsors of the measure.

For nearly 20 years, the A.R.C. has been a driving force in the development of our region of the country, and this recently passed bill, HR 10 -- which now goes to the Senate for its consideration --, directs the nation's attention to some of the most pressing problems still facing Appalachia--- such as: the need for an efficient highway system, adequate health care, and economic development to help put people back to work.

As it is well known, West Virginia still holds the doubious distinction of being number one in the nation in the number of unemployed workers. The A.R.C. can assist in putting them back to work, and that is why I enthusiastically support the Appalachian Regional Commission.

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