

TAPE FOR WEEK OF JUNE 27

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRUCTURING OF THE PHONE COMPANY, AND RECENT FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DECISIONS, THERE IS A CONCERN THAT SUCH ACTIONS MAY LEAD TO A DOUBLING OR EVEN TRIPLING OF LOCAL TELEPHONE RATES.

FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE JOINED A GROUP OF MY COLLEAGUES IN SUPPORTING, HOUSE RESOLUTION 321, WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TO INSURE THAT ALL AMERICANS CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE PHONE SERVICE.

IF TELEPHONE RATES INCREASE BY TWO OR THREE TIMES, SOME AMERICANS MAY BE FORCED TO MAKE A PAINFUL DECISION WHETHER TO BUY NEEDED FOOD AND CLOTHES--OR KEEP THEIR TELEPHONE.

ALL AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED, AND THOSE IN RURAL AREAS, RELY ON THE TELEPHONE AS A BASIC NECESSITY. THEREFORE, CONGRESS MUST REAFFIRM AN EARLIER POLICY TO GUARANTEE THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE SERVICE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.