

TAPE FOR WEEK OF APRIL 18

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

A LITTLE LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO, CONGRESS ENACTED AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION--THE STAGGERS RAIL ACT. THIS MEASURE WAS AIMED AT STRICKING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE PROFIT MAKING NEEDS OF THE RAILROADS, WITH THOSE OF COAL SHIPPERS WHO HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAN THE RAILROADS TO MOVE THEIR COAL FROM MINE TO COAL USERS.

HOWEVER, THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION THROUGH RECENT DECISIONS AND PROCEEDINGS, HAVE IGNORED CONGRESS' INTENT TO PROTECT COAL SHIPPERS, AND ~~INSTEAD, ALLOWED~~ ^{INSTEAD, ALLOWED} ~~INSTEAD, ALLOW~~ THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR COAL TO INCREASE.

THEREFORE, I HAVE INTORDUCED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR CAPTIVE COAL SHIPPERS. THIS BILL IS SUPPORTED BY THE UMWA, ELECTIC UTILITY CONCERNS, AND NUMEROUS COAL INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES.

THE NEED FOR ~~XXXX~~ MY LEGISLATION IS IMPERATIVE TO THE COAL REGIONS OF SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA, FOR IF COAL'S PRICE IS FORCED TO INCREASE--DUE TO TRANSPORTATION CHARGES--MORE MINERS WILL BE PUT OUT OF WORK.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.