

TAPE FOR WEEK OF JAN. 10

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

JUST RECENTLY THE COALFIELD ECONOMY IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA TOOK ANOTHER HIT WHEN A MAJOR COAL CONTRACT WAS TERMINATED WITH THE A.T. MASSEY COAL OPERATION IN MCDOWELL COUNTY. 250 MORE COAL MINERS WILL BE UNEMPLOYED BECAUSE OF THIS ACTION---AN ACTION THAT IS BEING BLAMED ON THE HIGHER PRICE OF COAL, DUE TO INCREASED RATES FOR HAULING CHARGED BY THE RAILROADS.

IN 1980, I AUTHORED A PROVISION TO THE RAIL ACT THAT WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT COAL MINES AND COAL MINE OPERATORS, WHO HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAN THE RAILROADS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THEIR COAL.

TODAY, WE SEE THAT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCIES ARE NOT CARRYING OUT THE INTENT OF CONGRESS---TO PROTECT THESE SO-CALLED CAPTIVE COAL MINES---OUR STATE'S ECONOMY AND PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING.

BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION, I HAVE RENEWED MY CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS INTO RAILROAD HAULING RATES, HOPING THAT POSITIVE ACTION CAN RESULT IN A BETTER FUTURE FOR COAL.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.