This is Congressman Nick Rahall.

The 98th Congress opens for business this week, with a very clear mandate from the American people to get our economy moving and to put the unemployed back to work.

Here in West Virginia our concerns for these goals are much greater since our State has the undistinguished position of being number one in the United States in the percentage of unemployed--15.3 percent.

President Reagan rejected efforts by the last Congress to establish a public works jobs program, but I do not believe Mr. Reagan's insistence will persist this year. West Virginians, and indeed all Americans, want action. They can no longer wait for Reaganomics to bring about a new prosperity.

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Our delegation in Congress is united for jobs, and I reaffirm my commitment to work for a jobs program that will put West Virginias on a payroll--not the welfare roll.

This is Congressman Nick Rahall.