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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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## RAHALL PLEASSED WITH REAGAN ACID RAIN STANCE

Washington D.C. --- West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, chairman of the Congressional Coal Group and long an advocate of increased coal use, believes, "President Reagan may have some good news tonight for coal."

"I am pleased that Mr. Reagan has chosen at this time, not to support a massive and costly acid rain control program which would be disastrous to West Virginia's economy, the economies of other coal producing regions, and to the users of electricity throughout the country," Congressman Rahall observed.

President Reagan is expected to request a boost in the annual federal research spending involving acid rain. The increase is believed to be about \$115 Million from the current \$28 Million.

"The President's call for more research into the causes and effects of acid rain is the prudent approach, and one that I have been advocating for several years now," Rahall stated.

Congressman Rahall is the sponsor of the bill, HR 1405, which would accelerate the ongoing study of acid rain by the Acid Precipitation Task Force, as well as allow for lakes with high levels of acidity to be limed.

"It has been estimated that stringent controls on the use of coal to reduce acid rain, could cost up 80,000 coal miners their jobs," Rahall pointed out. "When the causes and effects of acid rain are looked into, certainly unemployment is an effect of any controls."

"My approach to the acid rain issue has always been one of prudence," Rahall said.

"If we rush head-long into an acid rain program based on faulty assumptions," Congressman Rahall stressed, "we may control the wrong substance, at the wrong time, in the wrong manner."

"Then ten years from now we will look back at a public policy fiasco which has cost consumers billions of dollars, displaced thousands of jobs and has wrecked havoc on whole regional economies without achieving the intended environmental benefit," Congressman Rahall concluded.