

News
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CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Michael Serpe

202-225-3452

RAHALL ADDRESSES N.Y. LEGISLATURE ON ACID RAIN

Albany, New York --- In his opening remarks to a New York State Senate symposium on acid rain, West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall said, "My perspective on the acid rain issue is founded on concern for both this nation's energy and environmental goals--for they cannot be separated."

"But, if one thing is clear about the controversy over enacting an acid rain control program," Rahall observed, "is that scientific investigation and analysis is rapidly being overshadowed by emotionalism, and the proper deliberation of environmental and economic fact and data is distorted by screaming newspaper headlines and entrenched interest groups."

"Therefore, my voice is one of prudence on the issue of acid rain," Congressman Rahall said.

"Prudence before rushing headlong into embracing an acid rain control program which may be based on faulty assumptions, and recognizing that there is no consensus within the scientific community at this time on the causes and effects of acid rain," Rahall observed.

"We can afford to wait, for if our assumptions on acid rain are misguided, then ten years from now we will look back at a public policy fiasco which has cost the consumer billions of dollars, displaced thousands of jobs, and has wrecked havoc on whole regional economies without achieving the intended environmental benefit," said Congressman Rahall.

"While the hasty adoption of uniform policies on acid rain may be politically expedient, some patient research in selected key areas should make possible policies that are more environmentally sound and cost-effective," Rahall concluded.

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