

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RAHALL OPPOSES REDUCTION IN FUNDING FOR
COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY TECHNOLOGY**

Washington D.C. --- West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, has expressed his opposition to funding reductions of over \$4 Million in coal mine health and safety programs.

Congressman Rahall explained, "The basic health and safety research undertaken in these programs contributes technology to improve the working conditions of miners and to eliminate the hazards associated with the dangerous occupation of mining coal."

The Reagan Administration has proposed \$32.1 Million for this program -- down from the \$36.8 Million last year.

Congressman Rahall proposes that \$45 Million should be allocated for health and safety research.

"In light of the continued high death rate in the Nation's mines -- 70 coal miner fatalities in 1983, and the high number of coal mine injuries," Rahall pointed out, "there is no justification to support a reduction in funding."

The funds Rahall wishes to increase would go to, "emphasized research on controlling dust levels, noise control, ventilation and methane control in coal mines."

"There are also numerous proposals aimed at increasing miner safety which require development and testing," Congressman Rahall observed, "such as one which envisions a protective coverall that incorporates padding and a support system designed to reduce back injuries."

Rahall's budget recommendations will be made to the Subcommittee on Mines during consideration of the FY 1985 Federal Budget. Congressman Rahall is a member of the Subcommittee.