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## COAL GROUP TO MEET WITH JAPANESE COAL BUYERS

Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), chairman of the Congressional Coal Group, has announced that the Group will meet with the Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry sponsored delegation of senior Japanese coal buyers on Tuesday, May 15.

The Coal Group meeting will be held in <u>2175 Rayburn House Office Building. from 3-5 pm.</u> It is open to staff and any other interested individuals.

"We are expecting as many as thirty Japanese delegates representing their steel and electric utility industries," Congressman Rahall pointed out.

"Through this meeting, both sides will be afforded the opportunity to discuss the status of the U.S.-Japanese coal trade, and particularly we will express the United States' concern over the decline of this trade," Rahall observed.

Presentations will be made by: Mr. Saito, Executive Vice President of Nippon Steel, and Mr. Masuda, of Tokyo Electric, on behalf of the Japanese delegation.

Members of Congress scheduled to make presentations on current legislative initiatives to increase the competitiveness of U.S. coal exports are: Senator John Warner, (R-VA); Rep. Tom Bevill, (D-AL); Rep. Rick Boucher, (D-VA); Rep. Hal Rogers, (R-KY); and Rep. Nick Rahall.

All Coal Group Members attending the session will be given the opportunity to present their views and concerns as well.