

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 1984

CONTACT: Michael Serpe

202-225-3452

RAHALL BELIEVES HOUSE PASSED WATER QUALITY BILL WILL ADDRESS LAKE ACIDITY

Washington D.C. --- West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, said following the House passage of HR 3282, the Water Quality Renewal Act, "The House of Representatives has struck a resounding chord in support of a more prudent and cost effective approach to reduce the acidity of lakes and other waters."

Rahall, chairman of the Congressional Coal Group, made this observation because, "There are those who have been seeking to impose upon the Nation a costly program to allegedly control acid rain."

"In my mind," the West Virginia Democrat stated, "we took the more prudent approach, while awaiting more solid scientific data on acid rain itself."

The Water Quality Renewal Act, contains two programs aimed at utilizing liming and other methods to reduce the acid levels of lakes.

"The first of this two-pronged attack on lake acidity," Rahall explained, "is a State grant program to be administered by the E.P.A., whereby the States would carry out innovative methods of removing toxic metals and acid from lakes and other bodies of water."

\$25 Million per year will be provided for this effort in HR 3282.

"The second program," Rahall pointed out, "would be a demonstration effort to restore acidified lakes and watersheds through liming. \$25 Million would also be provided for this endeavor, which would be carried out by the E.P.A. and the Fish and Wildlife Service."

Congressman Rahall said that the approved Water Quality Bill, "contains language from a bill I introduced, HR 1405, to set in motion the acid reduction methods in effected bodies of water. As well as speeding up the study of the causes and effects of acid rain."

The Water Quality Renewal Bill now goes to the Senate for action in that body.