

News
From _____

Nick Rahall

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RAHALL URGES DEMOCRATS TO POSE COAL

Washington D.C. --- "In my view," said West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick Rahall, "the Democratic Party should seize the energy issue and formulate a strong platform position based on reducing oil use through the increased utilization of U.S. coal."

Congressman Rahall's comments were made in a presentation to the Democratic Party Platform Committee.

"Coal is the fuel which fired the Industrial Revolution, and it is still the best fuel to fire the Technological Revolution currently taking place," Rahall pointed out.

Stressing specific aspects of a national coal policy, Rahall, who is the chairman and founder of the Congressional Coal Group stated, "A Democratic Party position on coal should include elements supporting advanced coal research and development, improvements in coal transportation, and a strong mine safety and health program."

"We are on the verge of some exciting new technological break-throughs in advanced coal utilization methods," Congressman Rahall observed, "and I believe strongly it is in the national interest for the federal government to assume a leading role in advancing these technologies, including the development of synthetic fuels."

Rahall called on Democrats to, "work towards improvements in the transportation of coal by railroad and barge, and to maintain reasonable rates on these movements."

In addition, the Beckley native made clear his concern for those who mine the coal, "It is imperative that the Democratic Party continue its historic commitment to a strong mine and health program, and to preserve the black lung disease benefits program."

"A national energy policy based on coal," Rahall concluded, "will be pro-environment, pro-consumer, and will provide for the health and well-being of the American coal labor force."