

Congressman Nick Rahall

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RAHALL QUESTIONS REPUBLICAN COAL COMMITMENT

Washington D.C. --- "It is too bad the Republican Administration's and Republican candidate's so-called commitment to coal is not backed up by the facts," observed West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall today.

Rahall's comments were made in reference to the recent campaign visit to West Virginia by Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel on behalf of the Republican Party, particularly John Raese.

"The Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate here in West Virginia, obviously is unaware that the Reagan Administration has only paid lip-service to coal," Congressman Rahall stated.

"Does Mr. Raese, and all Republican candidates in West Virginia support Mr. Reagan's reduction in coal research and development funds, and the near-elimination of synthetic fuels development?" Rahall asked.

"If the Republican Senate candidate and the Reagan Department of Energy are such supporters of coal," Rahall stressed, "why did they sit back and let the Republican Administration pull the plug on the SRC II facility planned for West Virginia."

"Furthermore, why has the Republican Administration allowed rail rates to damage our coal's competitiveness," Rahall charged.

"After four years," it is very clear where this President, his Cabinet, and all other Republican candidates stand on the issue of coal," Rahall pointed out. "I'm afraid to think what another four years will do to West Virginia's chief source of livelihood," Rahall concluded.