

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 1984

CONTACT: Jerry Burkot

202-225-3452

RAHALL NOMINATES TWO WEST VIRGINIANS AND UMWA PRESIDENT
TO NATIONAL COAL COUNCIL

Washington, D.C -- Noting that the recent establishment of a National Coal Council by the Secretary of Energy does not yet have as members a representative of coal labor, university coal research and the environmental movement, Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today nominated three individuals representing those interests to the Council.

Rahall's nominees are: Richard Trumka, President of the United Mine Workers of America; Richard A. Bajura, Director of the Energy Research Center at West Virginia University; and Huntington resident Larry W. George, President of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

"The three nominations I am making to the National Coal Council represent interests which must be considered in formulating coal policy and in facilitating greater industry and government cooperation on coal-related matters," Rep. Rahall wrote to Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel. [Copy of letter attached].

Rahall stated that the three "possess qualities which will assist the Council in its most important work."

The National Coal Council is to serve as an advisory committee to the Department of Energy and will provide recommendations to improve government and industry cooperation on coal-related matters. To date, DOE Secretary Donald Hodel has named 23 individuals to the Council out of an expected 100 to 125 charter members. The 23 named so far are primarily representatives of the coal, electric utility and railroad industries.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 1, 1984

440 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3452
DISTRICT OFFICES:
815 FIFTH AVENUE
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701
(304) 522-NICK
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1005 FEDERAL BUILDING
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701
(304) 325-6222
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LOGAN, WEST VIRGINIA 25601
(304) 752-4934

Hon. Donald Hodel
Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Hodel:

You are to be commended for establishing the National Coal Council which is to serve as an advisory committee and will provide recommendations to the Department for improving government and industry cooperation on coal-related matters.

It is my understanding that 23 individuals have been named to the Council out of the 100 to 125 charter members expected to be appointed. As indicated by the Department's October 24, 1984, letter to me, you are requesting additional nominations. In this regard, I nominate three individuals who I believe possess qualities which will assist the Council in its most important work.

1. Mr. Richard Trumka, President, United Mine Workers of America: It is of the utmost important that coal labor be represented on the Council. Mr. Trumka has expressed a deep interest in efforts aimed at creating a stronger demand for coal and is knowledgeable of the regulatory impediments to increased coal use. Moreover, he is a champion of programs which assist in creating a safe and healthy environment for the Nation's coal labor force. It should be noted that Mr. Trumka has recently negotiated a contract with coal management without a nationwide strike.

2. Dr. Richard A. Bajura, Director, Energy Research Center, West Virginia University: WVU has a nationally recognized coal research program and is engaged in a number of projects to directly deal with problems in coal production, combustion and mining safety. There are few, if any, universities with the facilities and staff expertise to engage in the type of coal-related research in which WVU excels.

3. Mr. Larry W. George, Esq., President, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy: In my view, in its efforts to improve the environment the Highlands Conservancy places great weight on the importance of coal production to the people who live and work in a region with a coal-based economy, a fact often overlooked by national Washington, D.C., based environmental organizations. In this regard, it is my understanding that Mr. George has sought to be constructive, rather than deleterious, in his work on issues of benefit to coal. He has also served in a number of advisory capacities to public officials with an interest in coal policy.

Hon. Donald Hodel
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The three nominations I am making to the National Coal Council represent interests which must be considered in formulating coal policy and in facilitating greater industry and government cooperation on coal-related matters.

Following are the addresses of the individuals I am nominating:

Mr. Richard Trumka, President
United Mine Workers of America
900 15th Street NW
Washington, D.C.
842-7280

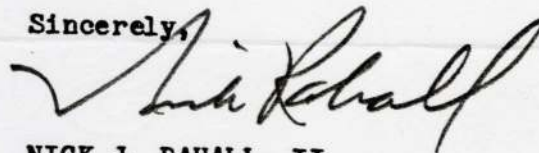
Dr. Richard A. Bajura, Director
Energy Research Center
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 293-2867

Mr. Larry W. George, Esq., President
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
9 Crestridge Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
(304) 523-8451

I look forward to hearing your views on these nominees, and if you would like to further discuss this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/jz