

TAPE FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

AS THE 99TH CONGRESS APPROACHES, I HAVE BEGUN TO WORK ON LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO INTRODUCE WHICH WILL AID THE SLUMPING COALFIELDS OF SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA. ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING US IS THE INFLUX OF IMPORTED COAL INTO THE UNITED STATES -- IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH WEST VIRGINIA COAL.

I BELIEVE THAT IMPORTED COAL IS MORE ATTRACTIVE TO DOMESTIC USERS BECAUSE THERE ARE NO DUTIES LEVIED ON COAL THAT IS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES. I FEEL THAT THIS INEQUITY MUST BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THE MARKET FOR IMPORTED COAL DEPLETES THE NEED FOR OUR OWN COAL HERE AT THOME.

I INTEND TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL IMPOSE A TARIFF ON COAL WHICH IS IMPORTED INTO THIS COUNTRY. THE LEVEL OF COAL IMPORTS INTO THE U.S. IN 1983 DOUBLED OVER THE LEVEL OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND THIS ALARMING TREND IS CONTINUING IN 1984.

WE CANNOT AFFORD A REPLAY OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY. WE MUST MAKE A STAND HERE AND NOW FOR DOMESTIC INDUSTRY BEFORE THESE IMPORTS THROW OUR COAL MINERS OUT OF WORK.

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