THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

LAST WEEK, IN A STATEMENT I PRESENTED TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S PLATFORM COMMITTEE, I STATED VERY CLEARLY THAT THE 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.

COAL IS THE FUEL WHICH FIRED THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION,

AND IT IS STILL THE BEST FUEL TO FIRE THE TECHNOLOGICAL

REVOLUTION CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE.

A DEMOCRATIC PARTY POSITION ON COAL, IN MY JUDGEMENT,
SHOULD INCLUDE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ADVANCED COAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT OF SYNTHETIC FUELS, IMPROVEMENT IN COAL
TRANSPORTAION, AND A STRONG MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM.

SUCH A POLICY WILL BE PRO-ENVIRONMENT, PRO-CONSUMER, AND REMARK IN TURN BENEFIT THE ECONOMY OF SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.