

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MAY 7

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM HAVE BECOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR NATION'S AND STATE'S ECONOMIC BASE. RECENT FIGURES SHOW THAT HERE IN WEST VIRGINIA, OVER \$1 BILLION IS SPENT ANNUALLY BY VISITORS -- A FIGURE THAT EQUATES TO OVER \$3 MILLION SPENT PER DAY.

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY IS THE THIRD LARGEST EMPLOYER IN WEST VIRGINIA, PROVIDING WELL OVER 31,000 NEEDED JOBS -- WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MANY MORE NEW JOBS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

NATIONWIDE, TRAVEL IS NOW THE SECOND LARGEST RETAIL INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS THE SECOND LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYER.

TRAVELERS WHO COME TO WEST VIRGINIA TO VIEW THE NEW RIVER GORGE OR TO CAMP IN OUR STATE PARKS AND FORESTS, NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ECONOMY, THEY ALSO OBTAIN AN APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR HOME. WE CAN HOPE THAT THEIR STAY WITH US WILL BE AS ENJOYABLE AS OUR <sup>LIVING</sup> ~~LIVES~~ HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.