

TAPE FOR WEEK OF JULY 29

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

LAST WEEK, THE HOUSE PASSED CLEAN WATER LEGISLATION. CONTAINED IN THIS ~~THE~~ BILL WERE TWO AMENDMENTS OF MINE WHICH WERE ADOPTED IN COMMITTEE: ONE TO PROVIDE THE COAL INDUSTRY WITH AN INCENTIVE TO REMINE ABANDONED MINE LANDS AND ANOTHER TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO FIGHT ACID MINE DRAINAGE PROBLEMS.

MY AMENDMENT WOULD MODIFY NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REMINING ABANDONED AREAS BUT WOULD STILL BE SUBJECT TO STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS. THERE ARE OVER ONE MILLION ACRES OF ABANDONED COAL MINE LANDS, MUCH OF THEM IN OUR REGION, AND I FEEL THAT WE MUST ENTICE THE COAL INDUSTRY TO REMINE THESE LANDS *and put coal miners back to work*

I ALSO ATTACHED AN AMENDMENT WHICH PROVIDES A GRANT OF \$25 MILLION PER YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS TO STATES TO BATTLE AGAINST ACID MINE DRAINAGE, PERHAPS THE MOST TROUBLESOME ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IN WEST VIRGINIA.

WE NEED THESE PROJECTS AND PROVISIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA AND I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN FINAL APPROVAL OF THIS BILL BY THE SENATE.

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