

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MAY 8 13

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

LAST WEEK, THE HOUSE INTERIOR COMMITTEE, OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER, TOOK ACTION WHICH I BELIEVE WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE COAL INDUSTRY, IF IMPLEMENTED.

THE COMMITTEE APPROVED MY BILL WHICH WOULD PLACE AN EIGHT DOLLAR PER TON TARIFF ON COAL IMPORTED INTO THIS COUNTRY. CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO DUTY AT ALL COLLECTED ON IMPORTED COAL.

THE MAIN COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS TARIFF -- COLOMBIA, POLAND, AND SOUTH AFRICA-- ARE NOT NORMALLY OUR BIGGEST TRADING PARTNERS, YET ARE SUPPLYING THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF FOREIGN COAL TO AMERICAN UTILITIES. WE SHARE MANY PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THESE COUNTRIES AS WELL.

I FEEL STRONGLY THAT MY LEGISLATION WILL PUT THE U.S. COAL INDUSTRY ON THE SAME LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, PLAYING BY THE SAME RULES AS THE REST OF THE WORLD, MAKING ME EVEN MORE CONFIDENT OF THE MARKETABILITY OF AMERICAN COAL.

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