

TAPE FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

DUE TO THE BREAK-UP OF THE BELL SYSTEM, WE HAVE WITNESSED A
DRAMATIC INCREASE IN TELEPHONE RATES OVER THE LAST YEAR. IN MANY
INSTANCES, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO GIVE UP THEIR TELEPHONE
SERVICE DUE TO THEIR INABILITY TO AFFORD THE HIGHER RATES NOW BEING
CHARGED.

MANY OF THESE PEOPLE WERE ~~POOR AND~~ ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED AND
DEPEND ON THEIR TELEPHONE FOR CONTACT WITH THEIR DOCTORS ~~AND THE LIKE~~.
IN ORDER TO ERADICATE THIS PROBLEM, I RECENTLY COSPONSORED LEGISLATION
IN CONGRESS THAT WOULD ESTABLISH SPECIAL LIFE-LINE RATES FOR LOW-INCOME
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS. THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE ELDERLY WHO MAKE LESS
THAN \$8,000 A YEAR HAVE HAD TO CUT THEIR PHONE USE SUBSTANTIALLY. ONE
OF EVERY FIVE AMERICANS OVER THE AGE OF 55 HAVE EITHER HAD TO CUT THEIR
USE OR CANCEL THEIR PHONE SERVICE.

WE MUST PROTECT OUR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED BY ALLOWING THEM ACCESS
TO THEIR LIFELINE-- THEIR TELEPHONE.

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