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George Good July 1985
Congressman
Nick Rahall

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CONTACT: Jerry Burkot

202-225-3452

House Rejects E.D.A. Deletion, Rahall Says

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that the House had defeated an amendment which would have deleted funding for the Economic Development Administration.

"The E.D.A. is important for the defense of this country," Rep. Rahall said on the floor of the House during debate on the amendment. "E.D.A. helps build and rebuild the infrastructure of this country. It creates jobs. It is a program that is working. It is an investment in our nation's future, and if we are going to be strong in our defenses, then we have to have something strong to defend right here at home. That is what the E.D.A. helps to do."

In response to allegations that the E.D.A. had not yet finished the necessary reforms to make its programs more effective, Rep. Rahall responded, "The E.D.A. has been trimmed from past spending levels. It is making reforms. It, along with the A.R.C. and other programs very important to the rural regions of this country, are helping to build the infrastructure. It is helping to develop regions of this nation where so much of our coal is mined that is important for our national energy policy if we are to be independent of foreign suppliers of oil."

Rahall also reminded his colleagues, "Many of the reforms that we would all like to see made in Pentagon defense spending have not yet passed the Congress of the United States; yet I do not see my colleague getting up and offering an amendment to eliminate the Pentagon."

Referring to the recent passage by the House of a \$13.1 billion foreign aid bill, Rep. Rahall pointed out, "What we are talking about here is economic aid for America. So let us remember that foreign aid bill and try to provide at least a miniscule amount of those dollars for our own country right here at home."