

news from ... Congressman Nick Rahall

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Rahall Announces Subcommittee Approval of W. Va. Water Projects

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the House Public Works Committee, on which he serves, approved legislation which would authorize funding for several water projects in West Virginia.

"With subcommittee approval of the Water Resources Development legislation, inland waterway improvements will be made, clean drinking water guaranteed, and recreational white water rafting in West Virginia will all benefit," Rep. Rahall observed.

"In an effort to facilitate commercial water transportation, especially the movement of coal, \$260 million is provided in this legislation for construction of two locks at Gallipolis, on the Ohio River, as well as \$34 million for improvements to and an additional lock in the vicinity of the Winfield Locks and Dam on the Kanawha River," Rep. Rahall pointed out. "Bottlenecks at Gallipolis, caused by outdated equipment, have hurt the economy of the Ohio River Valley. With this funding, future delays of shipments can be alleviated."

The bill also authorizes \$86 million for flood control projects along the Island Creek Basin in Logan County, a new project. The project would reduce the the average annual flood damages by approximately 90 percent.

"This legislation will also provide a boost to white water rafting on the Gauley River," Rep. Rahall pointed out. "Through my efforts, language has been inserted in this bill to provide for water releases from the Summersville Dam that will facilitate white water recreation on the 26 mile tailwater segment of the Gauley River, commencing at the base of the Dam." The legislation also specifically states that except in cases of emergency, no suspension or modification of such releases may be made solely for regions associated with the generation of hydroelectric power at the Summersville Dam.

Finally, the legislation contains a provision to provide the Huntington Water Corporation with a \$2.4 million loan to improve its pumping facilities. "Constructed in the early 1900's, deterioration is causing inefficiencies in the Huntington system," Rahall observed, "and I am pleased that this funding will guarantee clean and safe drinking water to the residents of the Huntington area in the future."

Full Committee action on the bill is expected Wednesday.

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