

news from ... Congressman Nick Rahall

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Rahall to Host Saudi Trade Delegation Visit to Tri-State Area

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) today announced that a high-level Saudi Arabian Trade Delegation will be visiting Huntington at his invitation on Thursday, April 11, to meet with area manufacturers to promote trade between southern West Virginia and the Saudis.

"When I visited Saudi Arabia in January, I met with my friend Abdulrahman Al-Zamil, the Saudi Deputy Minister of Commerce, and invited him to bring a group of Saudi businessmen into West Virginia to meet with Tri-State area manufacturers in order to see the products we had to offer," Rep. Rahall said. "We envision this as a meeting where the Saudis could see our people, hear about our products, and explore areas of common agreement on trade and sales between Saudi Arabia and West Virginia."

"West Virginia has many products which the Saudis want but cannot produce in their own country," Rep. Rahall pointed out, "and this represents an opportunity for them to meet their needs through West Virginia merchandise."

The all-day conference will be held at the Huntington Galleries. The Saudi delegation will be made up of buyers who were selected because of their specific interest in merchandise produced in southern West Virginia.

"The Saudis are interested in obtaining products such as lumber, glass, nickel alloy products, mining equipment, industrial equipment, chemicals, recreational vehicles, railroad cars, and many other products. And I think that we have the products to suit their needs right here in southern West Virginia," Rep. Rahall said.

"In light of King Fahd's recent visit to the U.S. and the history of friendly relations between our two countries, I feel that this trade relationship is in the mutual best interest of Saudi Arabia and West Virginia. On my trip to Saudi Arabia, I was impressed by the friendship and respect the people of that country have for the United States and I think that feeling was reciprocated during the King's recent visit," Rep. Rahall said. "A trade delegation visit to West Virginia will be a positive step in maintaining this relationship and, at the same time, improving our economy right here in southern West Virginia."