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news from ... Congressman Nick Rahall

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CONTACT: Jerry Burkot

202-225-3452

Rahall Calls For Clean Coal Funding To Combat Acid Rain

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today called for additional funding of the Clean Coal Technology program as the ideal method of fighting acid rain.

Testifying before the Subcommittee on Interior of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Rahall stated, "If you want to address the so-called acid rain problem -- fund clean coal technologies; if you want to provide consumers with low-cost energy -- fund clean coal technologies. There is no doubt that many of these new technologies are in need of federal assistance and will allow coal to be burned in a more efficient and environmentally sound manner."

Rep. Rahall, chairman of the Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources and the Congressional Coal Group, also testified to the need to develop cleaner and more efficient methods of producing coke and iron necessary to make steel. "Two proposals sent to D.O.E. under its clean coal technology solicitation, one of them from Weirton Steel in West Virginia, are illustrative of what can be done," Rep. Rahall pointed out. "These proposed technologies are aimed at producing iron through innovative processes which would comply with stringent environmental regulation."

Rep. Rahall also suggested to the Subcommittee that further development of a coal-fired steam engine locomotive by American Coal Enterprises would result in lower railroad transportation costs.

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