

news from ... Congressman **Nick Rahall**

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Rahall Pleased by Committee Action on ARC

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today praised the House Public Works Committee, on which he serves, for approving an authorization bill for the Appalachian Regional Commission, whose appropriation has not been authorized since Fiscal Year 1982.

"I am pleased that the Public Works Committee recognizes the importance of the ARC to people of Appalachia and has seen fit to authorize its funding at the Federal level," Rahall said. "Many worthwhile projects in southern West Virginia, Corridor G in Logan and Mingo Counties, for example, that are still unfinished," Rep. Rahall pointed out. "To abruptly cut the funds for these projects is leaving too much up in the air which needs to be completed."

The budget passed by the Senate last week does not contain funds for the ARC, but Rep. Rahall is confident that action by the full House will restore these funds. "We've got strong supporters in the House that have always helped us in the past, and I expect that a coalition can be put together to save the ARC."

Senate and House conferees could include funding for ARC in the final budget which is sent to the President. "I am hopeful that through this route we can overturn the Senate action and keep ARC functioning and serving the people of West Virginia," Rep. Rahall said.

West Virginia received over \$20 million in ARC funds in 1984 with over \$14 million of that used for highway construction; the state will receive a total of \$14 million in 1985.

The total funds authorized for the next seven years to the ARC is \$2.2 Billion.