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MASSEY STRIKE DRAWS CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION

Washington, D.C. -- The four members of West Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives along with a representative of Kentucky's Seventh Congressional District today announced in a joint statement that the situation in the strike by the U.M.W.A. against A.T. Massey Coal in southern West Virginia has reached a stage where active and intensive Congressional monitoring is in order.

In a statement released through the dean of the delegation, Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall, the five members of Congress stated: "Ever since the strike began last October, we have taken the position that it is the province of private sector negotiations hoping that the two sides would be able to settle their differences through the bargaining process. Unfortunately, in light of the lack of visible progress and the growing impact of the strike on the economy of West Virginia and Kentucky, we have determined that the strike is now a potential threat to the health, safety, and welfare of our constituents."."

Although, the negotiations have been between A.T. Massey and the U.M.W.A. to this point, the Congressmen are now considering a Congressional forum on the strike. "We intend to consult with our colleagues on the appropriate committees in Congress; perhaps a forum conducted under the auspices of the United States Congress may provide a vehicle through which a constructive airing of the strike issues can take place. We stand ready to help in any way we can."

The four members of the delegation are First District Rep. Alan Mollohan; Second District Rep. Harley Staggers, Jr.; Third District Rep. Bob Wise; Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall. The Kentucky Congressman is Seventh District Representative Chris Perkins.