

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

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June 27, 1985

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Colleagues Join Rahall in Support of Coal Import Legislation

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that 23 of his colleagues have joined him in filing comments before the House Committee on Ways and Means urging the consideration of H.R. 1905, the "Coal Trade Equalization Act of 1985." The bill, introduced by Rep. Rahall, would impose a duty on coal imports.

Already, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs -- which shares jurisdiction over the legislation with the Ways and Means Committee -- has considered and reported H.R. 1905 favorably after Rep. Rahall from his position as chairman of the Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, pushed the bill through the Committee on a voice vote in early May.

"At this time, we must convince the Ways and Means Committee that the growing level of imported coal, entering this country free of duty, poses a severe threat to the future livelihood of our domestic coal industry," Rahall stated. "I am pleased that Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall, ranking Republican Rep. Don Young of Alaska, and members of the House from non-coal producing regions such as California have joined with me in support of H.R. 1905."

Also filing comments in support of the bill are the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association, the United Mineworkers of America, the Mining and Reclamation Council of America, and Peabody Coal Company.

"This action is timely as it is my understanding that Virginia Power is at this time making arrangements to take a test shipment of Colombian coal," Rahall said. "This utility, formerly Virginia Electric Power Co., is a major user of West Virginia coal and its interest in Colombian coal should serve notice that foreign coal producers are seeking a much larger share of the U.S. market than many would ever imagine."

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