

news from ...

Congressman Nick Rahall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 1985

CONTACT: Jerry Burkot

202-225-3452

Rahall Coal Import Bill Approved by House Panel

Washington, D.C. -- The full House Interior Committee today approved Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall's (D-WV) legislation which would place an \$8 per ton tariff on coal imported into the United States.

"I am pleased that the Interior Committee agreed with me that something must be done to curb the flow of cheap, imported coal which is on the increase and has the potential for putting more coal miners out of work in the future," Rahall said. "With unemployment in the coalfields of Appalachia reaching alarming rates, it is necessary for us to do something to ensure that our domestic coal industry is not further threatened, and I feel that this legislation is a positive step in that direction."

The bill, H.R. 1905, must still be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee, to whom the bill was also referred by the Speaker of the House.

"The main countries which would be affected by this tariff are not countries with whom we are normal trading partners, such as Colombia, South Africa, and Poland. These countries are not stable trading partners, but have supplied the largest amount of imported coal to American utilities," Rep. Rahall stated. "Besides, we have disagreements with the human rights policies of some of these countries, particularly South Africa and their practice of apartheid."

"My bill does provide an exemption for countries who are historical net importers of U.S. coal, specifically Canada," Rep. Rahall pointed out. "I feel strongly that this legislation will put the U.S. coal industry on the same level playing field, playing by the same rules as the rest of the world. In a situation like that, I am confident of the marketability of American coal."