

news from ... Congressman Nick Rahall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today released the following letter:

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I have recently learned that you plan to include in your recision request to Congress funds from the budget of the Soil Conservation Service's Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.

Any recision of these funds would have a profoundly adverse effect on flood recovery efforts throughout West Virginia. There are approximately \$10 million presently unobligated in SCS stream re-channeling funds for flood-torn communities throughout West Virginia. These funds would remain frozen for a period of up to 45 working days of Congress, or until Congress took specific action, whichever happened first. However, if action were to be delayed up to the 45 day limit, delays in funding of as much as six months could result.

If this were to take place, many of the areas which suffered in the flooding last November would again be faced with the threat of flooding this spring. Additionally, if the recision request stands as is, a significant portion of reconstruction funds available to West Virginia under the Federal Disaster Declaration assistance from last fall would be frozen and possibly withdrawn altogether. West Virginia must have these funds to continue the contracting schedule which has already been established for re-channeling potentially flood prone streams and waterways.

I respectfully request your assistance in devising a solution which would ensure the continuation of this crucial work. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can provide you with any information in this matter.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

Rep. Rahall also announced that he will be an original sponsor of a resolution in the House disapproving of the President's deferral in the upcoming budget of about \$200 million in the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) program. "Congress set the appropriation level for this program at \$330 million for FY 1986, which is down from \$440 million in FY 1985," Rahall explained. "This represents a reduction of twenty-five percent for this important economic development program this year. The President's deferral, if enacted, would represent a total cut of over seventy percent in this program over a one year period. The UDAG program is vital to us in West Virginia and we will be harmed by this proposed reduction. That is why I will be taking this action in the House and I hope that my colleagues will support this necessary measure.