News From

Nick Rahall WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Jerry Burkot 202-225-3452

ACID RAIN BILL TO DISPLACE 7,000 W. VA. WORKERS, RAHALL CHARGES Rainelle, W. Va. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) charged today that preliminary figures indicate that the acid rain control legislation pending in the House of Representatives would impact over 7,000 miners and 23 million tons of coal in West Virginia should it be enacted.

Nationwide, over 38,000 coal miner jobs and 130 million tons of coal would be displaced. The statistics are based on a recent study of the bill, H.R. 4527, by the United Mineworkers of America.

"It is incomprehensible to me that anyone would suggest enacting legislation with such a massive impact on the already depressed coal producing regions of this country," said Rahall, "especially when you consider that the level of air pollution in this country has been diminishing since passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970."

The bill would require coal-fired electric utility powerplants to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 10 million tons and reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 2 million tons by 1997. It would also impose tighter emission standards for new cars and trucks.

Rahall said that cumulative costs of the legislation through the first 15 years of compliance are estimated at \$110 billion, paid for primarily by the consumer. In West Virginia electricity rates would skyrocket.

In a letter to congressional colleagues, Rahall questioned the purpose of the legislation. 'Citing Environmental Protection Agency figures showing a 28% decline in sulfur dioxide emissions over the last decade, as well as U.S. Geological Survey and National Academy of Sciences studies which found no increase in surface water acidity since the mid - 1960's, with decreases in sulfate levels found in most of these waters, Rahall warned his colleagues "not to be duped by the winds of politics -- the real problem is hot air pollution."

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Estimated Employment Impact of H.R. 4527

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	Tons	Workers
Alabama	3,375	1,144
Illinois	13,515	3,879
lndiana	7,800	1,582
Kansas	500	108
Kentucky	28,580	7,539
Maryland	1,265	309
Missouri	3,650	888
Ohio	17,575	5,030
Oklahoma	725	236
Pennsylvania	24.750	8,485
Tennessee	1,775	660
Virginia	3,345	1,201
West Virginia	22,695	7,205
	129,550	38,266

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Methology for Estimating Job Losses

- Reviewed consumption and coal quality for every coal-fired power plant (greater than 50 meagawatts) to estimate 1984 SO₂ emissions.
- 2) Calculated SO₂ reductions necessary by 1997 for each state based on statewide average emission rate of 1.2 lbs./mm Btu (Note: actual average would have to be some-what lower because bill requires standards to be met on a monthly basis).
- 3) Estimated least-cost strategy for utility plant to meet emission reductions (scrubbing vs. switching) using a net present value analysis. The major assumptions for the analysis were:

Scrubber capital cost:	\$300/kw
Scrubber O & M cost:	4.5 mills/kwh
Switching capital cost:	\$21/kw
Compliance coal cost:	20% price increase
Discount rate:	10% . 40
Number years:	20

- 4) Once least-cost strategy was determined, coal supplies were reviewed for plants that would switch. Tonnage by coal producing was the sum of the displaced coal for that state in all coal consuming states.
- 5) Job losses were calculated based on average annual production per coal industry employee, including production workers, engineering and technical personnel and office workers. (1985 data)