

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 30, 1986

CONTACT: Jerry Burkot  
202-225-3452

## RAHALL QUESTIONS NEED FOR ACID RAIN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Washington, D.C. -- Citing data showing there has been a reduction in sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions over recent years, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today told the House subcommittee which is considering "acid rain control" legislation that the need for the program it envisions is questionable.

"While there is no doubt that emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide can undergo oxidation in the atmosphere and, hence, give rise to the sulfates and nitrates associated with acid precipitation, a great deal of scientific evidence indicates that these precursor emissions and the level of sulfates present in the surface water of the United States have been, and are, on the decline," Rahall said in testimony before the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

"This, in my mind, calls into question the basic assumptions upon which H.R. 4567, the Acid Deposition Control Act of 1986, is premised," Rahall noted. The Fourth District Democrat cited from Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey reports showing that ambient levels of sulfur dioxide have decreased by 36% between 1975 and 1984, and that sulfate and nitrate concentrations are also on the decline in various geographically diverse regions of the country.

Rahall attributed these trends to the effectiveness of the current Clean Air Act and its emphasis in obtaining pollution control "through the less disruptive strategy of gaining emission reductions from new sources."

"I would also note that while there is much doubt as to the need of this legislation, there can be no doubt that it will extract a cruel toll in this Nation's coalfields causing the displacement of thousands of coal miner and related industry jobs," Rahall said.

He concluded: "Any way you look at it, the consumer is ultimately going to pay for this legislation in one way or another. My fear is that what the consumer is buying would be a lemon."