

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL ANNOUNCES HOUSE PASSAGE OF SUPERFUND CLEAN-UP BILL; URGES CONGRESS TO STAY IN SESSION TO OVERRIDE EXPECTED VETO

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) applauded today's passage by the House of a \$9 billion Superfund clean-up bill and said that he has urged the leadership to keep Congress in session to head off the President's expected "pocket veto" of the Superfund bill.

As a member of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over the bill, Rahall has been very active in the forging of the toxic waste clean-up legislation which passed the Senate by a vote of 88-8 last week. "This five-year reauthorization is intended to ensure speedier, more thorough clean-up of the nation's hazardous waste sites, including many in West Virginia," Rep. Rahall said. "The bill provides increased health protection for people who live near sites and increased opportunities for them to take part in clean-up decisions."

Rahall praised the revenue provisions of the bill which would provide \$8.5 billion for Superfund over the period from 1987-1991. To support a new clean-up program for leaking underground gasoline tanks, a 0.1 cent-per-gallon tax on motor fuels would be levied to raise up to \$500 million. "The monies for this bill would come from taxes on crude oil, feedstock, chemicals, and a broad-based tax on corporate income," Rahall pointed out.

"A key element of the bill is that it includes no hazardous waste tax, which would have been very harmful to chemical companies in West Virginia," Rahall added.

The bill also requires states to establish emergency planning districts for chemical leaks from facilities. Right-to-know provisions would require certain manufacturers to report to emergency and environmental officials information on chemical inventories and emissions to the environment.

The president is constitutionally required to sign or veto the bill within ten days of passage. With Congress hoping to adjourn soon, it would not have the opportunity to override the expected veto. Should Congress adjourn, the President can do nothing and the measure would die. This is known as a "pocket veto".

"I have urged the leadership to keep Congress in session long enough to force the President to act on this legislation and allow the Congress an opportunity to override the ill-advised veto," Rep. Rahall stated. "This country needs a clean-up program and I believe that we have passed a bill that will meet the needs of West Virginia and the rest of the nation."