

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

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Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL CALLS FOR STATE TO OPEN PROCUREMENT OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

Huntington, W. Va. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today called for West Virginia to open an office in Washington to help the state land the lucrative defense contracts that have previously gone to other states.

Speaking at an economic development seminar in Huntington, Rep. Rahall stated, "There is no question that West Virginia must be more aggressive and innovative in seeking not only procurement but other funding opportunities the federal government offers. With the cutbacks in the federal budget, we have to be more creative in meshing the public and private sectors in developing and expanding our economic base." Twenty other states currently maintain liaison offices in Washington.

Rahall said that he will be in touch with Governor Morre and the leaders of the state legislature under whose jurisdiction such an office would fall.

Rahall also gave a demonstration of his office computer's ability to track down grants and federal programs and indicated his willingness to allow those interested in securing federal monies to come in to his office and work with him and his staff in tracking those programs.

"I can certainly provide you with the available information about governmental programs that exist to assist you in your business needs and plans and, more generally, with economic development in our area," Rahall told the business and community leaders in attendance.

The economic development seminar was held at the Huntington Civic Center and was sponsored by the City of Huntington, the Huntington Area Chamber of Commerce, and Marshall University's Center for Regional Progress.