

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL CONTINUES EFFORTS TO REOPEN MCDOWELL MINES

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va) has announced his continued support for the group of miners interested in operating the former USX coal mines in Gary, McDowell County.

The Congressman has written a letter to Governor Arch Moore on behalf of the ESOP group stating his concern for the idled miners. At a recent meeting, the congressman's representative requested that the governor's office provide \$35,000 for a feasibility study to determine whether or not employee control of the facility would be feasible.

"McDowell County's economic future depends upon its ability to overcome the severe loss of jobs it has suffered in the past few months," Rahall said. "A feasibility study is one of the first steps in any reopening. The sooner the study begins, the closer miners will be to getting back to work."

Rahall believes it takes all parties to get the mines reopened in Gary.

"The people in McDowell County cannot do it all by themselves," the Congressman commented. "I am doing my best on the federal level and the local community is doing a great job in organizing and contacting the necessary agencies. I have also contacted the Center for Regional Progress at Marshall University and discussed their participation in the study, as well as their participation in our other efforts to diversify our economic base in the southern part of West Virginia."

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