

Keep Nick Rahall in Congress Committee

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RAHALL LAUDS PERKINS' ROLE IN KY. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Pikeville, KY -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today commended Rep. Chris Perkins (D-KY) on his efforts to land federal funding for projects on Routes 119 and 23 in Kentucky. Rahall, a ranking member of the House Public Works Surface Transportation Subcommittee, has worked closely with Perkins in securing this funding.

At a fund-raising appearance for Perkins with House Speaker Jim Wright (D-TX), Rahall pointed out that Perkins played a major role in bringing a large chunk of federal highway money to the four-laning project on U.S. 119 in Pike County. "Chris was able to secure \$12 million for this project, and make it an integral part of the state's six-year highway improvement plan," Rahall said. "I have driven that road many times, and I can testify firsthand of its need for repair. Through Chris's efforts, motorists in the area will soon be able to travel safer and more convenient roads in this area."

Rahall also noted that he and Perkins, who serve together on the Public Works and Transportation Committee, will pursue funding to complete the four-laning on Route 23, which runs from Ashland to the Virginia border. "Currently, there are gaps in the four-lane from Paintsville to Prestonsburg, and from Pikeville to the Virginia line," Rahall said. "In the last 9 months alone, there have been six traffic deaths on the span from Paintsville to Prestonsburg. Chris and I will be working to get the funding to make these into four-lane thoroughfares and eliminate the safety hazard of these two-lane stretches of highway."

The funds for the Route 23 project have been included in the House Transportation Appropriations bill and is currently the subject of a House/Senate conference. Rahall and Perkins both opposed two Republican attempts to delete the Route 23 funding this past summer.

Rahall was joined in Pikeville by Speaker Wright in praising Perkins as an effective representative of the people of Kentucky. "Chris has done a great job in Washington in making the interests of his constituents his number-one priority," Rahall observed. "I am proud to join Speaker Wright in honoring Chris for his tireless efforts on his constituent's behalf."