

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SUPPORTS PLAN FOR LODGE AT BEECH FORK

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) in an effort to help West Virginia's tourist industry and provide enhanced recreation in the state, says he favors plans to construct a lodge at Beech Fork State Park near Huntington.

Rahall has contacted Colonel Robert D. Brown III of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington and State Commerce Commissioner Robert Trocin to arrange a meeting between the two parties to discuss further development of the park's recreational activities and access roads.

"I explained in contacting these agencies we need to sit down with one another and chart the direction we are going to take with regard to the Beech Fork Project," Rahall said. "The State and the Corps of Engineers have to coordinate their respective plans for this project. There are a couple of legislative strategies I can pursue with this project, but I have to know precisely what the plan entails. Since the original plan's costs were estimated some ten years ago, and since certain cost share provisions may come into play with the project, the plan has to be updated by the Corps in conjunction with the State. The state legislature's innovative program to attract private investment is a tremendous opportunity for Beech Fork Lake Park. I certainly do not want to see this project delayed any longer than it has been. This seems like a perfect time to strike while the private sector interest is evidently very hot."

It would also attract tourists from throughout West Virginia, Eastern Kentucky, and Southern Ohio, as well as bring additional dollars into the local and state economies."

Beech Fork is West Virginia's newest park, consisting of 3,860 acres. The facility is still under construction. Plans include facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, hiking trails, golf course and a lodge.

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