

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Jerry Burkot
Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAYS UDAG'S, BLOCK GRANTS REAUTHORIZED BY HOUSE

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) said that the housing bill passed by the House of Representatives today reauthorizes funding for the Urban Development Action Grants (UDAG) and the Community Development Block Grants programs. Both have been constant targets of the Administration budget knife. Rahall termed these programs of vital importance to West Virginia.

The Housing and Community Development conference report authorized \$18.9 Billion for assisted housing programs, elderly and handicapped housing, new public housing and grants for public housing improvement assistance, as well as other measures to aid the people of West Virginia.

"The UDAG program is uniquely able to target economic development assistance to distressed areas with special needs and has proven effective as a tool for the revitalization of many depressed areas," Rahall told his colleagues. "The value of this program to many areas of West Virginia cannot be stressed enough."

Rahall cited in particular the City of Huntington's attempts to secure UDAG funding for its proposed Superblock project. "The development of the Superblock is crucial to the revitalization of Huntington, the largest city in West Virginia, and would not be feasible without UDAG funding," Rahall noted.

The Community Development Block Grant program also fills a special void in West Virginia's revitalization plans and strongly merited its reauthorization.

The conference report, if approved by the Senate, will go to the President for his final approval.

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