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RAHALL ANNOUNCES U.D.A.G. GRANT FOR BLUEFIELD

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) announced today that the City of Bluefield has received a Urban Development Action Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rahall said a total of \$478,800 will be made available to assist in the acquisition and clearing of a site for the Bluefield Distributing Company Warehousing and Distribution Center.

"The funds provided under the U.D.A.G. program will enable the city to purchase the land and clear it," Rahall said. "The Bluefield Distributing Company will in turn lease the land under a 50-year agreement and pay the city \$6,000 per year."

Rahall added that the grant will help in the diversification of Bluefield's economy and also provide jobs.

"I have been informed that once completed, a total of 35 permanent jobs will be created," Rahall commented. "That is in addition to the 32 jobs created in the construction phase of the project."

The total project is expected to cost \$1.2 million with financing being done by the First National Bank of Bluefield and the West Virginia Economic Development Authority.