

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 1, 1987

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RAHALL PRAISES PASSAGE OF EDA FUNDING

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) has announced that the House has approved funding for the U.S. Economic Development Administration, a program the Congressman calls vital to the State of West Virginia.

"I am pleased that the importance of EDA to this nation's most needy communities is recognized by members of the House, in view of the fact that the Reagan Administration has consistently sought to eliminate the program," Rahall said. "The number one goal of the EDA is the creation of jobs. That goal is significant to West Virginia because we continue to struggle with one of the nation's highest unemployment rates. The administration's opposition to this program is yet another example of the lack of concern for the truly needy in the heartland of America."

One item of special importance to communities in Southern West Virginia is the EDA's focus on small business incubators. Such a facility would provide for the collective use of clerical and accounting personnel, office machinery and warehouse space by fledgling businesses with little capital. Rahall calls the incubator system a good idea, one he has strongly advocated and assisted.

"I am actively exploring the use of the business incubator throughout my district with local leaders and business people," Rahall stated. "At the current time an application is pending before the EDA by the City of Huntington for an incubator and Welch has expressed a similar interest. Operations similar to the EDA incubators have opened in Mercer County. Bluefield opened an incubator earlier this spring and Princeton last year. Those two facilities have proven to be very valuable tools of economic development and diversification."

Another program administered by the EDA provides for the creation of industrial parks in which small industries share water, sewer and electrical facilities, thereby reducing costs and increasing their chances of long term success.

"EDA is exactly the kind of program we in the Congress should be strongly supporting," Rahall commented. "By providing start-up funds and technical expertise, EDA programs provide the impetus to stimulate the formation of small businesses and industries which are vital to the economic growth and stability of depressed and distressed communities throughout the country."

The Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.