

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAYS HOUSE PASSES CLEAN COAL & MINE SAFETY FUNDING

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed an Interior appropriations bill that will provide additional funding for the Clean Coal Technology Program as well as the Health and Safety Technology Program of the Bureau of Mines.

"As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, I am especially pleased with how this legislation would fund several programs of importance to the mining community," Rahall said during debate of the Interior Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 1988.

The bill will provide \$350 million over three fiscal years towards Clean Coal Technology, a program Rahall says can help bolster coal's marketability.

"By developing clean coal processes, we can possibly create a market for coal that is currently non-existent," Rahall commented. "Clean coal could mean more jobs in the mining industry and less dependence on foreign energy deposits."

The appropriation bill also provides funds for the Health and Safety Technology program of the Bureau of Mines which Rahall says will go towards black lung research and rescue technology.

"The House has provided for \$7.3 million more than the administration requested for this program, a clear recognition of the need to adequately fund mine safety initiatives," Rahall said.

"Included in the measure is \$2.5 million for respirable dust research at the generic center supported by West Virginia Univeristy as well as increased amounts for mine disaster prevention and fires," Rahall said.

"There is also funding for explosions research and postdisaster research to develop a new generation of self-contained-self-rescuer units among other initiatives. We are seeking a lighter, more efficient unit that has a greater oxygen capability than current models."

Also funded by the measure is the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program. Under this bill, the states would receive \$150 million for project construction.

The bill will now go to the Senate for consideration.

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