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WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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HOUSE PANEL APPROVES GALLIPOLIS FUNDING, RAHALL SAYS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) said today that the House Appropriations has approved some \$34 million for construction of a new lock at Gallipolis on the Ohio River, as well as funds for construction at Winfield Lock & Dam on the Kanawha River.

"Repair and replacement of these locks is crucial to the movement of our coal and other commodities along these waterways," Rahall said. "Delays such as those experienced last summer at Gallipolis are extremely costly to the coal and shipping industries and must be alleviated. The long overdue improvements to these facilities will result in more efficient movement of steam and metallurgical coal from southern West Virginia to markets throughout the nation."

The Appropriations Committee passage provides for \$34 million for Gallipolis on the Ohio River, \$1.9 million Winfield Lock & Dam on the Kanawha River, \$1.1 million for Lock 7, and \$6.8 million for Lock 8 on the Monongahela River. The money was approved as part of new construction funds in the FY88 Energy & Water appropriations bill.

"I am hopeful that the full House will follow the lead of the Appropriations committee and approve this funding," Rahall said. "We need these improvements made to our inland waterway system in order to beef up the passage of our commodities."

The House will take up this measure in the next few weeks.