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RAHALL ANNOUNCES E.D.A. AUTHORIZATION
OF HUNTINGTON INCUBATOR APPLICATION

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall says that the U.S. Economic Development Administration has authorized Huntington's pre-application for funding for a small business incubator. This action will mean over one hundred jobs for the City of Huntington, according to city projections.

"This authorization is tantamount to final approval," Rahall said.

Rahall was informed of E.D.A.'s decision during his latest conversation with U.S. E.D.A. Regional Administrator John Corrigan this morning. Rahall, who has been in constant contact with high officials within the E.D.A. throughout the process, was very optimistic about today's E.D.A. action.

"I approached Mayor Nelson in mid-April to advise him of the availability of E.D.A. funding and urged him and the City to file an application for these funds so that our dream of a small business incubator for the city could become a reality," Rahall said. "I am grateful that the E.D.A. has moved so swiftly on this as the funding of an incubator's construction within the city could be a boon to the city's economy."

The cost of the project could exceed \$1.2 million dollars, and the site of the project will be located at 25th Street and Guyan Avenue. "The final cost will hinge upon exactly what plan the city pursues and the scope of the incubator the task force recommends," Rahall pointed out.

Rahall has personally discussed this application with the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Orson Swindle, and John Corrigan, E.D.A. Regional Administrator, and they indicated their strong support. "I met with Secretary Swindle in my office in Washington recently and informed him of Huntington's plans," Rahall said. "I found the Secretary to be interested in our proposal and I have continued to work personally through him and Mr. Corrigan in pursuit of this application."

E.D.A. allowed the city to file this pre-application without the prerequisite city profile to assist E.D.A. in its consideration of the application. "I discussed this with various E.D.A. officials and, together, we were able to work around this usual requirement," said Rahall, who serves on the Economic Development subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives.