

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL TO PUSH E.D.A. FOR HUNTINGTON INCUBATOR FUNDS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall says he will be actively lobbying the U.S. Economic Development Administration for approval of Huntington's pre-application for funding for a small business incubator when it is filed this week. The city, at the suggestion of Rahall, is due to apply for the funding by the end of the week.

"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 hopeful that by the end of this week, the city of Huntington will be delivering to E.D.A. a pre-application for the funding of an incubator's construction within the city."

The cost of the project could exceed one million dollars, and the site of the project is as yet undetermined. "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. "Also, the location of the incubator will be at the discretion of the city."

Rahall has already personally discussed this application with the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Oliver Swindle, and has indicated his 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 will continue to work personally through him as we pursue the various stages of this application."

E.D.A. has 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 have 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.

"I am hopeful that final approval of this funding could be realized this current fiscal year," Rahall observed. "I will continue to push to bring this to fruition."

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