

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL PUSHES MINE SAFETY AT INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS HEARING

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) yesterday appeared before the Subcommittee on Interior Committee on Appropriations and urged increased funding for mine safety. Rahall also recommended the purchase of West Virginia Forest Land for the Monongahela National Forest during the hearing on Fiscal Year 1988 appropriations.

Rahall urged that \$7.25 million be appropriated for the purpose of mining health and safety technology. Included is over \$2 million for research at the Generic Center for Respirable Dust at West Virginia University and Pennsylvania State University.

"Under health and safety technology, of priority importance is the request for the Generic Center for Respirable Dust as well as increased research funding for the design of a smaller, lighter weight, self-contained self-rescuer unit," Rahall testified.

Rahall, Chairman of the Interior Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, also called for \$7 million for the purpose of mining technology which would include \$1.5 million increase for acid mine drainage work.

"For mining technology, we are seeking funds to complete underground proof-of-concept validations on prototype mining devices; research into efforts to treat acid mine drainage and subsidence and an intensified Abandoned Mine Reclamation research program," Rahall stated.

Rahall also endorsed the Committee's recommendations relating to the National Park System. He recalled previous support in which funds were allocated to enable the National Forest Service to undertake the first-phase purchase of the Shavers Fork tract in the Monongahela National Forest.

"For Fiscal Year 1988, I recommend approximately \$12.5 million to complete the acquisition of the Shavers Fork tract," Rahall stated. "There should be no doubt that the purchase of the entire Shavers Fork inholding will protect a most valuable recreational, wildlife and historic resources of national significance."