

RAHALL ANNOUNCES MERCER SEMINAR AGENDA

WASHINGTON, DC - Final plans have been announced for the Economic Development Seminar set for May 8, in Bluefield sponsored by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va). The program is to be held at the Bluefield Park Inn from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will feature a wide variety of state, local, and federal government as well as private agencies.

"The Mercer County Seminar is designed to further enhance and diversify the economic base of the county," Rahall said. "We are bringing together the resources available locally and hopefully match them with federal and state agencies that may be able to aid their cause."

Rahall hopes for a good turnout from interested groups and stresses that anyone interested in obtaining federal contracts should attend and witness a demonstration of his data base.

"The new computer data bases in all of my district offices have the ability to recall the most up-to-date information in regards to government contracts," Rahall commented. "My system will be on display and all interested parties should express their interest and attend a demonstration."

The day begins with registration from 8-9:00 a.m., followed by opening remarks from Congressman Rahall, the Mercer County Co-Sponsors and County Officials. Panel number one begins at 9:30 and will discuss Federal Economic and Community Development Programs. Participants will include representatives from the U.S. Housing and Development Department, Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, Soil Conservation Service and Farmers' Home Administration.

The 10:30 session will feature State Agencies that include Region I Planning and Development, West Virginia Department of Commerce, Governor's Office of Community and Industrial Development and the Marshall University Economic Development Program and Center for Regional Progress.

The noontime luncheon, for which reservations are required, is scheduled to feature comments from Rahall, Senators Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller and Governor Arch Moore. To assure a place for the lunch, reservations must be made by May 5 by calling Janet Bailey at 487-2896.

The afternoon sessions get underway at 1:30 with Appalachian Power Company, West Virginia Labor Management Council, West Virginia Roundtable, Inc., Mountain Association for Community and Economic Development and the Benedum Foundation discussing how the private sector can help in economic development and diversification. The final panel starts at 3:00 and is designed for the Small Business. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, West Virginia Treasurer's Office, and the Concord College Small Business Development Center are among the participants in the day's final session.

The program is being sponsored in conjunction with the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, the Mercer County Economic Development Authority and the Concord College Small Business Development Center.