

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 1987

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RAHALL APPLAUDS OVERRIDE OF HIGHWAY VETO

Washington, D.C. -- Calling the people of West Virginia the "winners" in the Congressional override of President Reagan's veto of a highway funding bill, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) said that the passage of the highway bill will allow the state of West Virginia to immediately begin work on long-awaited highway projects.

"The vote override by both houses of Congress shows the overwhelming support in this country for this highway bill," Rep. Rahall observed. "People all over this nation, and particularly the people of West Virginia, are the real winners in this debate. The need for highway projects is great; it promotes safety, creates jobs, and stimulates the economy. Most of all, this bill does not add one penny to the federal budget deficit."

Among the projects funded in this bill is \$17.6 million Rahall included for the construction of the New River Parkway in southern West Virginia. "Our dream of a scenic parkway from which to view the beauty of the New River Gorge will now become a reality," Rahall pointed out. "Not only will this provide an added tourist attraction, but the additional influx of tourists into the area will provide a much-needed shot in the arm for the local tourist economy."

The highway bill will provide approximately \$105 million for West Virginia in each of the next five fiscal years. Included in this is funds for mass transit targeted for the Tri-State Transit Authority in Huntington, and funds for repair work on rural roads and bridges.

"In addition, the bill contains funds for the Discretionary Bridge Program from which I have received assurances that the Congress will direct the Secretary of Transportation to assign priority to the replacement of Huntington's delapidated Sixth Street Bridge," Rahall added. The Sixth Street Bridge has been rated by the Department of Transportation as the bridge most in need of repair in the entire state.

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