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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 16, 1987

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## RAHALL JOINS TASK FORCE LOOKING FOR FAIR TRADE POLICIES

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) has announced that he has joined the Congressional Export Task Force in his continuing effort to support fair trade tactics which in turn would save American jobs.

A bi-partisan caucus, the Task Force is the principle forum for discussion of export-related issues and the leading source for information on all aspects of international trade legislation. Rahall said the ratio of imports to exports for the United States is a very bad imbalance.

"Trade figures for 1986 indicated that we imported at least \$170 billion more than we exported," Rahall said. "Economists agree that this condition is not only unhealthy for the American, but the world economy and could trigger a series of events that would throw the world market into a new recession."

Competitiveness in the world market is one issue in which Rahall is highly concerned. He represents West Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, a coal rich area which has recently suffered due to poor metallurgical coal markets, which have been saturated by imported coal producers.

"In 1986, the level of imported coal entering the U.S. rose by 20%, to over 2 million tons," Rahall said. "Of that amount, 36% came from Colombia. In fact, the amount of imported coal from Colombia rose by 42% between 1985 and 1986. That amount of coal being imported does not help the American coal miner. It is putting him on the unemployment line because the coal he mines cannot be sold. A fair trade policy is a necessity if our country is to survive. We cannot and should not rely on foreign nations to provide us with our vital resources."

Rahall added that the current administration has turned its back not only on his state of West Virginia, but the entire nation in regards to economic stability and fair trade.

"The White House has proven over the last six years it has been out of touch with the 'Real America.'" Rahall said. "The administration has orchestrated an enormous and wasteful military buildup with the MX Missile and Star Wars research while at the same time miners in Southern West Virginia were being put out of work because Colombian coal is being unfairly dumped on our shores. Instead of funding Contras in Nicaragua, the administration should be concerned about the people of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio who have no idea where they will get their next meal."

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