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RAHALL ANNOUNCES WELCH'S INTEREST IN BUSINESS INCUBATOR

BLUEFIELD, W.VA. - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) today announced that as a result of his economic development seminar on February 12, Welch Mayor Martha Moore has made a preliminary proposal to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to establish a business incubator within the city of Welch.

Moore's proposal was delivered through the Region I Planning and Development Council to the U.S. EDA on Friday, February 13, 1987, the day after Rahall's seminar.

The Congressman applauded Mayor Moore's instant response to comments from the U.S. EDA representative at the seminar who explained the availability of funding for such projects as an incubator.

"The U.S. EDA's priority is programs that provide jobs. One concept that is growing in acceptance throughout West Virginia is that of a small business incubator," Rahall said. "I strongly support the concept of incubators. By allowing new business to share expenses for such things as clerical work, data processing and equipment needs makes not only dollars, but also sense."

Rahall has contacted the U.S. EDA and lent his full support to Welch's proposal. He recalled his announcement recently that the EDA had authorized some \$20,000 for a feasibility study for the Gary Miners' Cooperative and a similar authorization for a technical assistance director for McDowell County's Economic Development Authority.

Rahall termed the Welch seminar a success and paid tribute to the people who participated.

"I salute the citizens of McDowell County on their interest and willingness to work on behalf of their communities," Rahall said. "The Welch incubator is a shining example of what can happen by matching the available federal, state and private resources with the ideas of our communities. I hope this will be one of many projects that develop as a result of our gathering."