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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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## RAHALL JOINS EFFORT TO KEEP SOUTHERN W.VA. BUS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.-U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall has announced that he will co-sponsor legislation that will keep common carriers from abandoning bus service in states. Residents in Rahall's Southern West Virginia district are currently fighting to keep Trailways bus service from Bluefield to Welch.

"The current Bus Deregulation Act now permits carriers to abandon service routes as they please, with little or no regard for citizens in our rural communities," Rahall stated. "This legislation amends the act to increase the importance of state agency decisions in abandonment cases and assist in restoring the traditional public convenience and necessity standard."

For West Virginia, a new federal law would mean that the Public Service Commission would play a bigger role in cases where a carrier wishes to abandon routes claimed to be unprofitable, but remain the only source of public transportation.

"Many residents of Southern West Virginia depend on the busses to shop, visit relatives and keep doctors' appointments," Rahall said. "It should also be pointed out that many merchants, retailers and non-business related people rely on bus carrier service for the daily flow of freight."

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