

WV RECEIVES \$800,000 IN FEDERAL LAND PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today announced that West Virginia has received \$813,342 for the current year from the federal government under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program.

The payments, commonly referred to as "PILT" monies, are distributed to local units of government to offset the fiscal impacts caused by the presence of federal lands such as national park units and national forests.

Rahall, who is active on land issues, said that as federal holdings increase in West Virginia due to the expansion of the national park system such as at the New River Gorge National River, PILT payments will also increase.

"This program gives us the opportunity to increase our recreational and tourism potential through activities such as establishing national park units while ensuring that local units of government are provided with the financial assistance for activities such as fire and police protection, search and rescue operations and road construction," Rahall said.

The following counties received "PILT" funds from the federal government:

Cabell	\$1,066
Raleigh	3,169
Wyoming	11,203
Wayne	26,814
Mingo	2,675

Mercer, McDowell and Logan Counties did not receive any funds for there are no federal lands in those counties.