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From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL BLASTS REAGAN ON VETOED BILL

Washington, D.C. - U. S. Representative Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) charged today that the Reagan Administration has once again turned its back on West Virginia and the nation's environment.

Rahall asserts that the President's pocket veto of the Clean Water Act earlier this month indicated the executive branch's indifference toward the Appalachian region and the preservation of the environment.

As result of the veto, Rahall is co-sponsoring introduction of the Clean Water Act Reauthorization in the 100th Congress.

"It is astonishing that the current administration will spend billions of dollars researching new weapons but not a dime to make sure the people of the country have potable water," Rahall said. "The people of West Virginia want water they can drink, not Luke Skywalker and his space toys."

Rahall was a strong proponent of the 1986 act that received unanimous support in both the House and Senate and would have provided for improvement in the quality of the nation's waters through the establishment of new programs for controls on toxic pollutants.

The final version of the Clean Water Act Reauthorization passed by Congress included a provision introduced by Rahall which would have provided incentives for industry to remine and reclaim abandoned coal mine lands.

"There are many abandoned mines that have high levels of acid in their water run-offs," Rahall commented. "If operators were allowed to re-open these mines, they would remine and reclaim the area, reducing environmental hazards."

The vetoed legislation would have reauthorized the Construction Grants program at \$2.4 billion for each fiscal year through 1988. In fiscal year 1987 and 1988 West Virginia would have received \$40 million each year.

"Due to the veto, the towns of Bradshaw, Ceredo, Gilbert, Kenova and many other communities will have to delay plans for sewage systems," Rahall said. "I'm going to direct my efforts toward eliminating this delay."

It is anticipated that the new legislation, to be known as H. R. 1, will be identical to the vetoed measure. House members hope to pass it as soon as possible.