

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 9, 1987

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT
202-225-3452

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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PAT ROBERTS
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE

gerry P.R. McDonald & Logm. W. H. S.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 1987

KEEP ESSENTIAL BUS SERVICE

1314 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202: 225-2715

LEROY TOWNS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MERRY M. TOBIN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

*This is directed at
situations like those
facing WV - good PR.*

Dear Colleague:

co-sponsor

Today we are reintroducing legislation to avert a transportation travesty in rural America. Last year Trailways Lines Inc. informed many midwestern states of its intention to abandon bus carrier service in those states. Under current law, states have little authority or influence to prevent those abandonments.

*and
WV
→*

This means the individual state agencies are powerless to stop this carrier from abandoning all service routes in states such as Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Montana, Utah and Nevada. If this comes to pass, thousands of rural communities in these and other states will be left with no bus service whatsoever.

In the name of deregulation, the criteria for "public convenience and necessity" was dropped from the Bus Deregulation Act of 1982. The act now permits carriers to abandon service routes as they please, with little or no regard for citizens in our rural communities. Those citizens -- merchants, farmers, retailers and repair shop owners -- depend on bus carrier service for intra- and inter-state travel, as well as the daily flow of freight and spare parts that bus service currently provides.

The legislation we are introducing amends the Bus Deregulation Act of 1982 to increase the importance of state agency decisions in abandonment cases and assist in restoring the traditional "public convenience and necessity" standard.

We hope you will join our effort to end the wholesale abandonment of essential bus service in rural America. If you would like to cosponsor this legislation or need further information concerning this important issue, please contact me personally or David Hanzlick of my staff at 5-2715.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,

Pat Roberts
Pat Roberts

Bob Whittaker
Bob Whittaker

Dan Glickman
Dan Glickman

Jim Slattery
Jim Slattery

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

MEMORANDUM

Bob, Please draft P.R. for this. Check w/ Kent & Annie since they have both been working on bus problems.

Thanks,
Jung