

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 11, 1988

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT  
(202) 225-3452

## RAHALL COAL HERITAGE BILL REPORTED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS TODAY FAVORABLY REPORTED LEGISLATION INTRODUCED LAST WEEK BY U.S. REP. NICK J. RAHALL (D-WV) THAT WILL AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF PROTECTING AND PRESERVING SITES AND POINTS OF INTEREST WITH SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND HISTORIC VALUES ASSOCIATED WITH SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA'S COAL MINING HERITAGE.

"THE COAL MINING HISTORY OF THIS REGION IS A STORY OF STRUGGLE, OF HUMAN SACRIFICE AND OF OCCURRENCES WHICH HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK ON THE HISTORY OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE," RAHALL SAID.

"THERE ARE FEW VESTIGES OF THIS ERA REMAINING AND I BELIEVE IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THIS GENERATION TO ENSURE THAT WHAT DOES REMAIN IS NOT LOST TO FURTHER DECAY. FOR THESE OLD MINING CAMPS AND OTHER RELICS OF THAT TIME ARE AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF OUR HERITAGE AND THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THEM SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN OR LOST TO FUTURE GENERATIONS."

THE LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE THE PARK SERVICE TO IDENTIFY THESE SITES, AND THE ROUTES WHICH LINK THEM TOGETHER, AS WELL AS EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIP THEY HAVE WITH EXISTING FEDERAL AND STATE PARK UNITS AND WITHIN A ONE-YEAR PERIOD REPORT TO CONGRESS WITH ITS FINDINGS.

RAHALL ENVISIONS HIS AMENDMENT AS LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUMBER OF RECOGNIZED COAL HERITAGE SITES AND POINTS OF INTEREST COMPLETE WITH A CLEARLY DEFINED NETWORK OF ROADS LINKING THEM TOGETHER. SUCH A ROUTE COULD BE CALLED A "COAL HERITAGE TRAIL." COUPLED WITH THE EXISTING STATE PARK SYSTEM AND THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER, RAHALL SAID A RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE IN PLACE THAT WILL OFFER VAST OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND THE REGION'S ECONOMIC BASE.



REMARKS OF REP. NICK J. RAHALL, II  
"Coal Heritage Study" Amendment to H.R. 3690  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
May 11, 1988

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS AMENDMENT WOULD AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF PROTECTING AND PRESERVING SITES AND POINTS OF INTEREST WITH SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND HISTORIC VALUES ASSOCIATED WITH SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA'S COAL MINING HERITAGE.

THE COAL MINING HISTORY OF THIS REGION IS A STORY OF STRUGGLE, OF HUMAN SACRIFICE AND OF OCCURRENCES WHICH HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK ON THE HISTORY OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

THE COAL BARONS FLOURISHED IN THIS REGION DURING THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. COMPANY STORES AND HOUSING AND PAYMENT BY SCRIPT BECAME A WAY OF LIFE FOR MANY. THE NATIVE POPULATION BECAME INTEGRATED WITH SOUTHERN BLACKS AND IMMIGRANTS FROM ITALY AND OTHER COUNTRIES. MARY 'MOTHER' JONES BECAME A FREQUENT VISITOR TO THE STATE AND MANY MINES WERE UNIONIZED BY 1902.

HOWEVER, A GREAT DEAL MORE HISTORY WAS TO BE MADE AS REPRESENTED BY THE SUBSEQUENT LABOR DISTURBANCES ON PAINT CREEK AND CABIN CREEK IN 1912 AND 1913, MATEWAN IN 1920 AND THE BATTLE AT BLAIR MOUNTAIN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

THERE ARE FEW VESTIGES OF THIS ERA REMAINING. I BELIEVE IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THIS GENERATION TO ENSURE THAT WHAT DOES REMAIN IS NOT LOST TO FURTHER DECAY. FOR THESE OLD MINING CAMPS AND OTHER RELICS OF THAT TIME ARE AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF OUR HERITAGE AND THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THEM SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN OR LOST TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

UNDER MY AMENDMENT, THE PARK SERVICE WOULD IDENTIFY THESE SITES, AND THE ROUTES WHICH LINK THEM TOGETHER, AS WELL AS EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIP THEY HAVE WITH EXISTING FEDERAL AND STATE PARK UNITS AND WITHIN A ONE-YEAR PERIOD REPORT TO CONGRESS WITH ITS FINDINGS.

I URGE THE ADOPTION OF THIS AMENDMENT.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 5, 1988

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT  
(202) 225-3452

OK  
✓

## COAL HERITAGE SITE DEVELOPMENT FOSTERED BY RAHALL BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. REP. NICK J. RAHALL (D-WV) TODAY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT WILL AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF PROTECTING AND PRESERVING SITES AND POINTS OF INTEREST WITH SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND HISTORIC VALUES ASSOCIATED WITH SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA'S COAL MINING HERITAGE.

THE LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE THE PARK SERVICE TO IDENTIFY THESE SITES, AND THE ROUTES WHICH LINK THEM TOGETHER, AS WELL AS EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIP THEY HAVE WITH EXISTING FEDERAL AND STATE PARK UNITS.

UNDER THE LEGISLATION, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WOULD WORK WITH COALWAYS (A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE THE REGION'S COAL HISTORY POTENTIAL) AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES AND WITHIN A ONE-YEAR PERIOD REPORT TO CONGRESS WITH ITS FINDINGS.

"THE BOTTOM LINE OF ALL OF THIS IS THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE WE IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA SHOULD FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VAST OPPORTUNITIES WHICH EXIST TO EXPAND OUR ECONOMIC BASE THROUGH THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE SITES WHICH GAVE RISE TO MUCH OF OUR HISTORY AND THE CULTURAL VALUES WHICH WE HOLD TODAY," RAHALL SAID.

"TO OUR EAST LIES THE NEW RIVER GORGE COUNTRY. TO OUR WEST IS THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY. BETWEEN THESE TWO REGIONS ARE A NUMBER OF STATE PARK UNITS. I BELIEVE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUMBER OF RECOGNIZED COAL HERITAGE SITES AND POINTS OF INTEREST COMPLETE WITH A CLEARLY DEFINED NETWORK OF ROADS LINKING THEM ALL TOGETHER, IN EFFECT, A COAL HERITAGE TRAIL, WILL PROVIDE A COHESIVE INFRASTRUCTURE UPON WHICH WE CAN BUILD FOR THE FUTURE."

MORE

RAHALL NOTED THAT THE ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY COALWAYS AND THE ASSISTANCE IT IS GETTING FROM THE EDA WOULD SERVE AS THE NUCLEUS FOR THE PROJECT. "THE COALWAYS STUDY WILL COMPLIMENT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EFFORT BY PROVIDING NECESSARY LOCAL INPUT," HE SAID.

"WITH THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THIS ENDEAVOR, FRANKLY, THE STAGE WILL BE SET FOR ME TO TAKE FUTURE ACTIONS TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COAL MINING HERITAGE SITES IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA THROUGH THE CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS," RAHALL STATED.

"OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IS THE FACT THAT THE PARK SERVICE REPORT REQUIRED BY MY LEGISLATION WILL BE MADE TO A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHICH I AM A SENIOR MEMBER -- THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS," SAID RAHALL. "AND, AS THE RANKING DEMOCRAT ON THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TO WHICH THIS BILL WAS REFERRED, I AM IN A GOOD POSITION TO ENSURE ITS CONSIDERATION."