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CONGRESSMAN

*Nick*  
**Nick Rahall**

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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### **RAHALL ISSUES WARNING TO WESTERN COAL PRODUCERS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) will warn a Monday gathering of western coal interests not to view "acid rain" legislation as a means to sell their coal in midwestern and eastern coal markets.

"Do not view acid rain control legislation as a vehicle to further expand markets for western coal in the Midwest and the Eastern regions of this country," Rahall will state. "The acid rain issue should not become a battle between eastern and western coal producers. And, it must not become a battle between high and low sulfur coal."

Rahall will make his remarks Monday evening during a meeting of the Western Coal Council in Colorado. According to the congressman, there is a growing sentiment among western coal producers that acid rain legislation can be fashioned to displace eastern coal and initiate greater western coal infiltration into eastern markets.

In his speech, Rahall notes that acid rain bills have always been drafted in an attempt to fracture a united coal industry front and are being devised to lull various segments of the industry into a false sense of security. However, he warns that upon a close examination of these proposals the ultimate beneficiary will not be the coal industry, western or eastern.

"Who will be laughing all the way to the bank under these bills? It will be certain natural gas pipeline interests who have publically joined ranks with the Sierra Club to promote "acid rain" legislation. And, it will be Canadian power producers who, subsidized by their government and free from the type of stringent environmental regulation we have in this country, are poised to seek out an even greater share of the U.S. electricity market."

Any split in the coal industry, Rahall warns, "is not conducive to the type of long-range coal-based energy policy that I think we would all like to see."