

CONGRESSMAN

News
From _____

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1988

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT
202-225-3452

HOUSE ACTION FUNDS A.R.C., WATER PROJECTS AND FLOOD CONTROL IN WEST VIRGINIA, RAHALL SAYS

WASHINGTON - The U.S. House of Representatives today approved the conference report on H.R. 4567, the Fiscal Year 1989 Energy and Water Appropriations measure. According to Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), a total of \$17.8 billion was approved, including \$110.7 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (A.R.C.), \$2 million for nonstructural flood control measures in lower Mingo County and \$1.5 million for land acquisition in Matewan's flood control efforts.

"The A.R.C. was designed in 1965 to stimulate economic progress in Appalachia. West Virginia is the only state whose boundaries are fully within the jurisdiction of the A.R.C. and that agency's projects have greatly aided people throughout the state by providing funds for highways and education, providing health care and decreasing the poverty level," Rahall said. "Much work remains to be done in all of those areas in West Virginia and it is vital that funds are allocated to address the concerns of those in need."

Rahall stated that the funding of water development projects is also vital to West Virginia businesses and industries that rely on inland waterways for transportation.

"In our state, coal is shipped on the Ohio, Kanawha and Monongahela Rivers from mines to coal users located west, south and north of the State," Rahall commented. "This measure will help modernize the antiquated waterways providing \$60 million for the construction of new locks at Gallipolis on the Ohio River near Huntington, \$6.5 million for the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River and for two locks and dams on the Monongahela River. The upgrading of these facilities are long past due."

In the area of flood protection, \$47.4 million is included for flood control projects on the Levisa and Tug Forks of the Big Sandy River and the Upper Cumberland River. "Two projects in Mingo County and one in Logan will be directly affected by this legislation," Rahall said. "The Williamson flood protection project and flood-proofing projects in Matewan will help provide security to those two Tug Valley communities that have been ravaged time and time again by hostile, rising waters. Similarly, the Island Creek Basin in Logan County will receive \$200,000 for planning flood control."

Funding was also included for U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Projects in the state including the maintenance and operation of rivers and lakes.

The report passed the House 384-17 and now goes to the Senate for a vote.