

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAYS A.R.C., WATER PROJECTS AND FLOOD CONTROL FUNDED BY HOUSE-PASSED BILL

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) called today's passage of the Fiscal Year 1989 Energy and Water Appropriations a vital boost to the future diversification and development of West Virginia. H.R. 4567 contains funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, locks and dams on the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers and flood control in the Tug Valley of Mingo County.

Rahall cited the accomplishments and the continued need for funding of the A.R.C., saying the agency has helped West Virginia but much remains to be done to provide state residents a better quality of life.

"Since 1965, the A.R.C. has continuously promoted much needed economic progress in Appalachia, decreasing the poverty level, boosting the level of income, cutting infant mortality rates and increasing the number of doctors. The level of education in the area is approaching the national average. Progress has been made," Rahall said. "However, the inescapable fact remains that there is much left to be done before the region is on par with other areas of the nation."

The Congressman also stated that funding for water development is of critical importance to West Virginia which relies on waterways to ship some of its coal from suppliers to buyers.

"This bill will help modernize the antiquated waterways which are so vital in the shipment of West Virginia coal," Rahall said. "Funding is included for construction of new locks at Gallipolis on the Ohio River near Huntington, at the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River and for two locks and dams on the Monongahela River. Modernization of these facilities is long past due and needed if we are to ship coal on our rivers."

Funds are included for flood control projects on the Levisa and Tug Forks of the Big Sandy River. "These projects, such as the flood walls under construction in Williamson and the floodproofing of homes in that area, are crucial to the future well being of the Tug Valley communities that have been ravaged time and time again by severe flooding," Rahall stated.

Finally, the bill covers the operation and maintenance of existing Army Corp of Engineers projects throughout the state. The projects are as follows: Beech Fork Lake (\$573,000), Bluestone Lake (\$767,000), Burnsville Lake (\$919,000), East Lynn Lake (\$742,000), Elk River Harbor (\$285,000), Elkins (\$12,000), Kanawha River Locks and Dams (\$6,107,000), R.D. Bailey Lake (\$1,082,000), Stonewall Jackson Lake (\$596,000), Summersville Lake (\$1,007,000), Sutton Lake (\$1,387,000) and Tygart Lake (\$1,096,000).

"Many of the critical needs of West Virginia are met through the passage of this bill," Rahall said. "I hope the Senate is able to move quickly and favorably on it and send it to the President."