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RAHALL LAUDS EFFORTS THAT LAND PRINCETON PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUB

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) today praised the efforts of the Princeton Baseball Club that helped the Mercer County seat land a franchise in the Appalachian Baseball League.

In a telegram to the Club, Rahall stated, "The Princeton Baseball Club has shown that a community can work together to reach its goals."

Rahall said the team will aid Princeton by generating money for the local economy as a result of players' salaries, local citizens attending games and out-of-town visitors who will come and spend money on local items.

The Princeton team will be affiliated with the Pittsburgh Pirates and will play in the Appalachian League, which is the first or rookie level in professional baseball. The team will be the second professional team in Mercer County, the other being the Bluefield Orioles, who also participate in the Appalachian League. The only other professional team in the state outside of Mercer County is in Charleston.

Rahall said he foresees a good rivalry between the Pirates and Orioles, which will provide entertainment to the people of Southern West Virginia.

"I foresee a rivalry developing between the Princeton and Bluefield teams that will attract people from throughout the area," the Congressman stated. "It will not only provide entertainment for the entire family, but also a sense of civic pride in the two communities served by the ballclubs."

Baseball season will begin for the Princeton Pirates following the annual Amateur Draft conducted by the major league ballclubs later in the spring.