WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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## RAHALL APPOINTS MERCER COUNTY RESIDENT TO CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today appointed Mercer County resident Bill Brezinski to be a member of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus advisory board. Brezinski, who resides in Athens, was appointed in his capacity as a member of the New River Parkway Authority.

"It gives me great pleasure to appoint Bill Brezinski to the advisory board of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus," Rahall said. "Through his work on the New River Parkway Authority and other endeavors relating to recreational opportunities in southern West Virginia, I think Bill's input will greatly benefit the Caucus."

Rahall, who serves on the Steering Committee of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, said that it is a bipartisan organization of Members of Congress who are interested in the importance of travel and tourism to the economy. The Caucus is used as a forum to exchange information and research and to develop legislative recommendations.

The purpose of the advisory board is to provide private sector input to the Caucus. Currently, the advisory board includes about 40 inviduals representing all areas of the country.

"At this time, I am working on a number of initiatives relating to recreation and tourism in southern West Virginia such as the proposed New River Parkway and plans to extend it through Mercer County, legislation which I introduced that has been passed by the House to establish the Gauley River National Recreation Area and the effort to preserve structures relating to our coal mining heritage," Rahall said.

According to Rahall: "As a Mercer County resident, I believe Bill will greatly assist not only these efforts but help expand upon them through the exchange of ideas which goes on within the Caucus and its advisory board."