

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 9, 1988

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT
(202) 225-3452

BLACK LUNG PROGRAM HEARING SET FOR W.VA.

RAHALL SAYS BENEFIT BACKLOG AND ELIGIBILITY OF CONCERN

BECKLEY, W.VA. -- U.S. REP. NICK J. RAHALL (D-WV) TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT A CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT AN APRIL 11 HEARING IN BECKLEY ON THE FEDERAL BLACK LUNG PROGRAM.

"I HAVE REQUESTED THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR STANDARDS TO COME TO WEST VIRGINIA TO HOLD THIS HEARING ON THE BLACK LUNG PROGRAM BECAUSE I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET INTO THE HEART OF THE COALFIELDS AND HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE ON A DAILY BASIS," RAHALL SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE CONGRESSMAN, AMONG THE AREAS THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BE EXAMINING ARE THE BACKLOG IN PROCESSING PENDING BLACK LUNG CASES AND BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY.

RAHALL INVITED PERSONS INTERESTED IN PRESENTING TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONTACT HIS DISTRICT OFFICE NEAREST TO THEIR LOCATION.

"IT IS MY INTENTION TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN TESTIFYING AS POSSIBLE," RAHALL SAID. "I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT WE WILL BE ACCEPTING WRITTEN STATEMENTS IF A PERSON DOES NOT WANT TO PROVIDE ORAL TESTIMONY."

THE CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICES AND PHONE NUMBERS ARE: BECKLEY, 252-5000; BLUEFIELD, 325-6222; LOGAN, 752-4934; HUNTINGTON, 522-6425. THE HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE MSHA MINE ACADEMY IN BECKLEY.

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