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SOUTHERN AIRPORTS GETS F-A-A FUNDING, RAHALL SAYS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) announced today that three airports in Southern West Virginia have been awarded funds by the Federal Aviation Administration. Airports in Beckley, Bluefield and Pineville have all been given money for physical repairs and additions.

The Raleigh County Memorial Airport in Beckley will receive \$380,000 to expand its apron and install fencing. The Mercer County Airport in Bluefield is to get \$90,000 to groove the runway, install taxi-way signs and acquire snow removal equipment; and Kee Field in Pineville will receive \$54,000 to conduct a master plan update.

Rahall lauded the grants and stated that by investing in the state's airports, the federal government is investing in West Virginia's future.

"Our airports may very well be the core in further diversification of our economy in Southern West Virginia," Rahall commented. "With better transportation facilities, business and industry seeking to locate in our region may take a longer look at what we have to offer."

The grants are part of the F-A-A Airport Improvement Program.