

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

 **Nick Rahall**

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT
202-225-3452

RAHALL SAYS EDA FUNDED BY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall said today's passage of the Commerce-Justice-State-Judiciary Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1989 saves the Economic Development Administration, an agency that is vital to the economic rejuvenation and diversification of West Virginia.

"I am pleased that the House has once again rejected the Reagan Administration's repeated attempts to eliminate this program which is so imperative to the needy communities of the nation," Rahall said. "The number one goal of the EDA is the creation of jobs, obviously a most pressing issue in West Virginia."

Rahall said the EDA has provided a much needed boost for chronically depressed and historically deprived communities. He added that the EDA pinpoints areas in great need and assists them with projects that spur the economic growth needed to increase jobs and enlarge tax bases. This, according to the Congressman is done in a variety of ways including the creation of small business incubators.

"I am actively exploring the use of the business incubators in my Congressional district with local leaders and business people," Rahall said during debate on the bill. "Currently pending before the EDA is an application by the City of Huntington for assistance for such an incubator."

An incubator provides for the collective use of clerical and accounting personnel, office machinery and warehouse space by fledgling businesses with little capital. Rahall also spoke of the creation of industrial parks.

"The innovative concept of sharing resources is similar to the incubator concept," Rahall said. "Small industries share water, sewer and electrical facilities, thereby reducing costs and increasing their chances of long-term success. The program has been extremely successful in Mercer County, and we in the State continue to push the option for other needy areas."

The Congressmen also said the EDA has granted funds to Coalways Inc., a group that is conducting a feasibility study to determine the tourism potential of Southern West Virginia mining towns with historical significance.

Rahall concluded his statement to House members saying that programs such as EDA are ones that should be supported by the federal government.

"By providing start-up funds and technical expertise, EDA programs provide the impetus to stimulate the formation of small businesses and industries which are vital to the economic growth and stability of depressed and distressed communities throughout the country."

The bill passed the House 314-96 and now goes to the Senate for consideration.