

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 22, 1988

CONTACT: Jerry Burkot  
202-225-3452

RAHALL SEEKS CORPS ACTION ON HUNTINGTON DOCKING PROBLEMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In response to recent complaints about the docking facilities at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) has asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to resolve the problems at the Ohio River facility.

The recent excursions to Huntington of the Delta Queen, the Driftwood, and the continuing presence of the West Virginia Belle have been hampered by river sediment in the vicinity of the park. "The area apparently needs to be dredged before we are unable to accomodate these vessels any longer," Rahall said. "I have asked the Army Corps of Engineers to look into the problem and see what can be done to facilitate any action in that area before it is too late."

Rahall is awaiting the results of a Corps investigation he asked for earlier this month.

"The Ohio River and its water traffic have played an increasingly important role in the economic rejuvenation of the Tri-State area," Rahall observed. "We need to make evert effort to allow the river to continue to fill this role."

Herald-Dispatch 6-4-88

## Sediments must be cleared for docking

The Port of Huntington had a busy day Thursday.

The Ohio River, which once saw only towboats and barges carrying coal and chemicals, was the stopping place for three handsome passenger vessels.

An hour after the West Virginia Belle departed the dock for its daily tour of the river, the grand old passenger boat, the Delta Queen, arrived at Harris Riverfront Park for the first of five visits to the city this year.

Unfortunately, the Delta Queen was unable to dock properly because of river sediment in the vicinity of the park. It's a situation we see as unacceptable. It must be corrected quickly.

In addition, the motor ves-

sel Driftwood, which had stopped in Huntington as part of its 22,000-mile voyage of the inland waterways of America, was tied up nearby while its crew viewed the Ohio River Odyssey Exhibit at the Huntington Museum of Art.

The reputation of the river has come a very long way in a very short time, from a murky, slightly threatening tool of commerce that was to be all but ignored, to a major scenic attraction providing thousands with the joy and wonder of life on the river.

In fact, the reputation of the river has come full circle. As it once gave life to Huntington when it was founded 115 years ago, it's an integral part of the city's renewal.

## Council told city may lose Belle if dock area not dredged

Gerry Krueger, executive director of the Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau, warned Monday night that Huntington could be in jeopardy of losing the West Virginia Belle's business if the Harris Riverfront Park's docking area is not dredged.

"We have a problem," Krueger told City Council. "Who's in charge of dredging? The Corps of Engineers

says it can only dredge the navigational channel. Something needs to be done. We could lose the boat."

The area now being used to dock the Belle three days a week is only four feet deep and the excursion boat has a seven-foot draft. The problem became even more acute last week when the Delta Queen had a difficult time docking at the park.

Mayor Bobby Nelson said in a tele-

phone interview Monday night he is trying to find money to get the Belle through the current season, while plans are being formulated for a more permanent solution.

"I have talked to Capt. (Robert) Kehl about the problem," Nelson said. "The current facility is not where we plan to have the permanent dock. It will be located west of the amphitheater in the future."

The Dispatch



NICK J. RAHALL II  
4TH DISTRICT WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN:  
MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
PUBLIC WORKS AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AVIATION  
WATER RESOURCES  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

345 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3452  
DISTRICT OFFICE:  
815 FIFTH AVENUE  
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701  
(304) 822-7100  
1104 MAIN STREET  
BROOKLYN, WV 25801  
(304) 292-8000  
1008 FEDERAL BUILDING  
BIRMINGHAM, WV 24701  
(304) 325-8222  
R.R. BUILDING  
LOUGH, WV 25801  
(304) 752-4934

June 6, 1988

Colonel Robert D. Brown III  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Dear Colonel Brown:

I am enclosing a recent editorial in the June 4, 1988 edition of the Huntington Herald-Dispatch concerning the difficulties with sediment along the docking facilities at the Huntington Harris Riverfront Park.

If you could investigate this matter and/or apprise me of what action your office or the appropriate officials could take in this matter to resolve the docking difficulties, I would greatly appreciate it.

You may reply to my Huntington district office: 815 5th Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II  
Member of Congress

NJR/tkk

Enclosure

Release That NJR  
has requested an  
inquiry.  
need to do something  
today. Kent said.  
If you don't know,  
please  
call.

6688 JB here is inquiry. how do you want to let  
Herald Dispatch know we have done it?  
Letter to Casto, etc.??? Please advise?