

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAYS UNITY WILL HELP STATE PROGRESS

Charleston, W.Va. - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) addressing the West Virginia Statewide Procurement Summit this afternoon, said that the State's economic problems can be met by West Virginians, not party politics.

"There are only West Virginians, united in our determination to rebuild our economic base, making our state the best it can be," Rahall stated. "There will be instances when we must put aside personal or regional preferences for the common good. There are sacrifices that must be made. There is much work that must be done."

Rahall said the changing nature of the coal industry indicates that there will never again be a boom to match those of the past and that West Virginians must face reality and work to make things happen.

"It has become very clear that jobs will no longer fall from the sky as we expected," Rahall said. "It has also become clear that the federal government cannot simply create jobs anymore for the sake of creating jobs. Today's budget reality dictates that we must seek out these jobs, we must create our own opportunities."

Rahall pointed to the meeting as a starting point in the state's effort to find those opportunities and announced the formation of a task force which will discuss a plan of action to follow.

"What we need to establish today is our commitment to the future of West Virginia. Are we ready to toil, to sacrifice, to sweat, to work toward our common goal?" Rahall asked. "Are we ready to dedicate ourselves to bettering our state? Are we willing to secure a solid future for our children? Do we want to give them a state in which they can live and work and prosper? We need to keep our people at home, yet we must give them a reason to stay."

Rahall concluded by saying that together the state can prosper, but alone and divided the state cannot progress.

"United, there are no limits to what we can achieve," Rahall said. "The ball is in our hands. We cannot afford to fumble."

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