

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SETS PROCUREMENT SUMMIT FOR SEPTEMBER 6 IN CHARLESTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced that he will convene the first West Virginia Statewide Federal Procurement Summit at the Charleston House Holiday Inn at noon on Tuesday, September 6, 1988. The summit meeting will begin with a luncheon, followed by an afternoon session.

Rahall called for the statewide summit to bring everyone together to map out a strategy to bring more federal procurement dollars to West Virginia. "Two points have become very clear to me in my efforts to bring more federal money to West Virginia," Rahall said. "First, if we are not careful, we will begin to duplicate our efforts, seeking the same grant assistance as other people in the state. We cannot afford to compete against each other for the same grants. There is simply too much competition nationwide to allow ourselves to work against our own best interests."

"Second, other states are already ahead of us in the procurement battle. Not only do we not want to waste precious resources in duplicating our efforts, but we could also be left behind as other states get their act together in pursuit of these federal monies," Rahall added.

Rahall has invited just about every individual or organization in the state with some sort of stake or expertise in the field. "I have invited the Governor, members of the State Legislature, our Congressional delegation, Regional Planning and Development Councils, the State Economic Development Authorities, the State and local Chambers of Commerce, the West Virginia Roundtable, our colleges and universities, and the various federal agencies in West Virginia -- the Small Business Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, the Army Corps of Engineers, Government Services Administration, the Veterans Administration Medical Centers -- as well as many other business leaders and labor groups throughout the state," Rahall said.

Rahall stressed the importance of statewide cooperation in this effort. "We need to work together, plain and simple. This battle has no Republicans or Democrats, Northern or Southern West Virginia, or business or labor," Rahall pointed out. "We are all in this together."

Rahall referred to a Huntington Herald-Dispatch editorial of June 7 which he felt summed up his procure summit accurately. "It has long been noted that West Virginia is a state divided against itself. Parochial attitudes have stifled us in the past. Lack of cooperation has brought confusion, infighting and waste of our limited resources," the Herald-Dispatch editorialized. "We agree with Rahall that provincial squabbling must come to an end before West Virginia can get its share of the government pie. What's good for the Eastern Panhandle or the northern counties is good for the state, and therefore, good for Huntington and Charleston as well. We welcome Rahall's idea for a state summit on government procurement."

At this first of what is planned to be a series summit meetings, task forces and committees will be appointed, and the role that everyone can play in the procurement effort will be discussed.