

CONGRESSMAN

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1988

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT  
202-225-3452

## TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE REPORT FUNDS ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE, RAHALL SAYS

Washington - The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the conference report on H.R. 4794, the Transportation Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1989. Included in that measure is funding for Essential Air Service (EAS), a program Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) said is vital to the survival of air service in West Virginia.

"The \$25 million for EAS is a blessing to many West Virginia airports," Rahall said. "This is another program essential to so many which the Reagan Administration has repeatedly attempted to kill. Five communities in West Virginia receive EAS assistance. In my Congressional District, I can attest to its vital need at the Bluefield and Beckley Airports. Morgantown, Martinsburg and Elkins also benefit greatly from this program."

In addition to funding EAS, the report allocates \$666 million for the Federal Railroad Administration, including \$584 million for Amtrak operating and capital expenses. Rahall continued by stating that the passenger train is the only source of transportation for some.

"Once again, the Congress is demonstrating that we, unlike the administration, have not forgotten those who rely so heavily on Amtrak, many of whom are the elderly and handicapped who have limited means of transportation," Rahall said. "The Cardinal not only supplies an important means of transportation for West Virginians, but also brings people from throughout the country to enjoy the many recreational opportunities in our beautiful state."

The report also provides \$166.2 million for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) programs and authorizes the release of \$12.1 billion from the Highway Trust Fund for highway grants. The FHWA provides financial assistance to West Virginia and the other states to construct and improve roads and highways, and to enforce federal standards in relation to interstate motor carriers and the highway transport of hazardous materials.

Finally, the report provides for large increases over the administration's requests for other mass transit programs. The Urban Mass Transit Administration formula grant funds are vital to many including the Tri-State Transit Authority located in Huntington, West Virginia.

The report now goes to the Senate for its approval.