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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 5, 1988

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## RAHALL SAYS GREEK VISIT MAY BOOST WV COAL TRADE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) returned from his visit to Greece armed with coal supply specifications and prospects for West Virginia coal exports to that country.

"I met with both Greek government and private sector representatives to discuss the potential for West Virginia coal producers to enter the Greek market," Rahall said. "The word spread like wild fire that there was a U.S. congressman in the country interested in talking about coal supply agreements with West Virginia producers. Based on the contacts I made and the scope of our discussions, I believe there is a definite possibility that some type of West Virginia coal sales to Greece can be consummated."

Rahall said that he stressed both the quality and reliability of southern West Virginia coal during his meetings with Dr. Nicholas Vasilakos, General Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology and private sector coal purchasers.

The Greek cement industry in particular represents a potential market for West Virginia coal, Rahall reported. In a meeting with Titan Cement Company, Rahall learned that the company exports approximately 40% of its output to the U.S. with the vessels returning empty. "It's in their economic interests to find a U.S. commodity for the backhaul," Rahall noted. "That commodity should be West Virginia coal."

Rahall will now turn over information on the coal supply specifications he obtained to West Virginia coal producers.

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