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RAHALL SAYS CORPS AND D.N.R. AGREE ON HISTORIC JENKINS' HOUSE MANAGEMENT

BECKLEY, W. VA. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) says that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources have reached an agreement to turn over management of the historic Albert Gallatin Jenkins's House at Lesage/Greenbottom to the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

"An agreement in principle has been reached," Rahall said. "There still remains a few details to be ironed out, but there is an overall agreement to having the West Virginia Department of Culture and History assume management of the Jenkins' House for the purpose of the restoration and maintenance of this property as a public educational facility."

Rahall has been active in bringing these state and federal agencies together to work out a solution to the management of this facility. The House management will be separate from the overall fish and wildlife mitigation project plan.

The agreement was reached at a meeting in the office of Commerce Commissioner Robert Trocin. Attending the meeting were Commissioner Trocin, Bob Miles of the Department of Natural Resources, Robert Shreve and Bill Ferrar of the Department of Culture and History, Steve Wright and Bill Sinozich of the Army Corps of Engineers, and representatives of Congressman Rahall.

"I commend all of these people for their effort in hammering out this agreement," Rahall noted. "I particularly want to commend Bob Trocin, who has served as the ombudsman in resolving this issue."

The residents of the Jenkins' House have been informed of the agreement and will remain in the house until the Department of Culture and History is ready to assume management sometime next spring.

"I am pleased that the General Jenkins home will be preserved for the benefit of the present and future generations of West Virginians," Rahall observed. "West Virginia is a truly historic state and we must continue to do what we can to preserve our rich heritage for the generations to follow."

Rahall has had meetings with various groups interested in assisting with the restoration of the Home and encourages their forming a private organization to take on the home as a long term project.

"I see this agreement as a signal flare to beckon those who appreciate the historical significance and value of this property," Rahall said. "A commitment from the private sector will be instrumental in restoring the historical grandeur of the Jenkins home. It is my great hope that this historic home will become a very popular educational and tourist attraction for people all over this nation."