

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 1989

CONTACT: JIM ZOIA
(202) 226-7761

RAHALL PROMOTES WEST VIRGINIA'S WILDERNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In recognition of his commitment to environmental issues, U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) has been invited to serve on a Special Congressional Advisory Committee to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

"I have found that we in West Virginia prize our wilderness areas as a place to renew our ties to nature," Rahall said. "These wilderness areas provide us with recreational opportunities, and an outlet from the daily trials and tribulations we all face in this modern society."

The Wilderness Act, signed into law in 1964, established a National Wilderness Preservation System consisting of federal lands with special characteristics. Often referred to as one of the most poetic of Congressional pronouncements, the law defines "wilderness" as an area "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

West Virginia is the home of 5 federally designated wilderness areas all located within the Monongahela National Forest: Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Laurel Fork North and South, and the Cranberry.

The Special Congressional Advisory Committee will seek to heighten public awareness of wilderness issues, and as a member of the Committee, Rahall said he will promote West Virginia. "We need to let the country know about recreation and tourism opportunities in West Virginia. That we have pride in West Virginia. And that our State is second to none in its natural beauty," he said.

- 30 -