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RAHALL ANNOUNCES VENEZUELAN COAL LOAN
REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN

WASHINGTON DC, - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) today announced that with the help of American coal miners, a Venezuelan coal conglomerate's request for \$147 million dollars in assistance was withdrawn this morning.

Recently, Rahall called upon the nation's coal miners to mobilize and mount a campaign with the U.S. Export-Import Bank to deny a request for assistance to the foreign coal company. Coal from this company has been imported to the United States in the past. Rahall, realizing the further aggravation increased imports could have on the already devastating unemployment in the coalfields demanded the Bank scrutinize the loan fully.

"I am extremely pleased this application has been withdrawn. In our global economy, our industries can not afford our government subsidizing foreign competitors allowing them to blatantly infiltrate our domestic markets closing our mines costing American jobs," Rahall said. "It is incumbent upon our government to always put America first. I will certainly be monitoring the bank's future actions."