

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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## RAHALL EXAMINES LORTON PROPOSAL

With the recent announcement of a proposal to construct prison facilities in West Virginia, specifically in Mingo County, which I have the high honor of representing in the U.S. Congress, I feel compelled to respond to those in my district who will be affected by it.

While I just received and have not had sufficient time to study the details of this proposal, I feel confident in making some comments on the broad concept of locating the District of Columbia's inmates in the heart of my district. It is not a proposal upon which one jumps with ecstasy, and yet I along with many other West Virginians realize the great needs that face our area.

I am not saying we are willing to accept any proposal that comes down the pike promising to save the day. What I am saying, and I believe many others in Southern West Virginia are saying is, give us your proposals, and we will seriously consider them, but we will make certain that your pledges and promises for economic revitalization and the maintenance of safety and the quality of our lives are as ironclad as the cell doors you want to set in our backyards.

Before I will consent to making any statement opposing or supporting this plan, I request that the parties involved in making the proposal provide the fullest details possible to the residents of Mingo County through public forums which include answering any questions they may have and through written materials provided to anyone who so requests them.

Secondly, I want to see to my satisfaction that there is a written agreement with the State of West Virginia and/or the County of Mingo that any jobs created during the construction of this facility and through its continued operation are filled by West Virginians. If West Virginians lack the sufficient technical and vocational training that these jobs require, I would expect an agreement between the many educational institutions in my district and those involved with the proposal to establish job training programs to fulfill these needs.

Thirdly, while it may indeed be true that the development of these facilities in West Virginia may aid our economic revitalization efforts, I believe that West Virginia is owed an additional consideration by the developers and the District of Columbia. If Fairfax County, Virginia is being promised a high technology institute by the developers to give up a prison, then Mingo County, West Virginia deserves a greater enticement to take one. I call upon the developers to meet with our State Government and our institutions of higher education to develop an institute of applied technology for economic development in West Virginia.

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