

Good News

CONGRESSMAN

News
From _____

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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FSX Deal Doesn't Fly With Rahall

WASHINGTON D.C. - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), today announced his opposition in the House of Representatives to the FSX fighter plane agreement with Japan. Rahall supported a House move to send a strong message of disapproval of the deal to both the President and Japan.

"The FSX, in my eyes, has three strikes against it. Strike One -- unfair trade! This agreement allows the Japanese, yet again, to ignore their promise to us to buy American products. This is ludicrous in view of our huge trade deficit with Japan which has averaged \$50 billion for each of the last four years.

"Strike Two -- unfair tax burden! The agreement allows Japan to further shirk its responsibility in providing its fair share of the international security burden. While Japan's economy is more than half the size of that of the U.S., its defense budget is less than one-tenth the size of our defense budget.

"Strike Three -- unfair competition! This agreement will allow the Japanese to use American Technology and expertise to help advance their clearly stated goal of developing an aircraft industry that will compete with American firms in the world market." Rahall said.

Rahall supported an amendment which would require that the future agreement governing co-production of the FSX to prohibit the transfer to Japan of "critical technologies" relating to jet engines. It would also require that the co-production agreement prohibit the sale or transfer by Japan to third countries of the FSX or any major subcomponents developed or produced with the U.S.

Finally, the amendment would express the sense of Congress that the FSX co-production agreement should allocate at least 40% of the production work to the U.S., require the General Accounting Office to monitor the FSX project, and direct the Commerce Department to monitor and analyze the impact of the FSX project on U.S. industry and make appropriate recommendations to the President.