

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN


Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNE 28, 1989

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RAHALL PUSHES FOR WEST VIRGINIA

FUNDING IN HOUSE REMARKS

WASHINGTON, DC -- In remarks before the House of Representatives today, Congressman Nick J. Rahall (D-W.Va.) urged his colleagues to vote in favor of HR 2696, a bill which would provide funding crucial to the continuing economic development of West Virginia. Congress subsequently passed the bill by wide margins, and sent it to the Senate for consideration.

Under the bill, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), which Rahall termed "of critical importance to West Virginia," would receive \$110 million in FY 1990. This is an increase in funding from last year's appropriation, and would allow the ARC to continue to have "an enormous, positive impact on Appalachia."

Additionally, the bill allocates funds to help modernize West Virginia's waterways, which Rahall stressed are "vital to the shipment of West Virginia's coal." Among projects included in this section of the bill are the construction of new locks at Gallipolis on the Ohio River, which would receive \$78.9 million, and construction on the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River, which would receive \$20.8 million.

Flood control projects on the Levisa and Tug Fork Rivers will receive \$56 million under today's bill. These funds are earmarked for the construction of flood walls and the floodproofing of area homes. These funds are "crucial to the future well-being of the Tug Valley communities that have been ravaged time and again by severe flooding," Rahall said.

The bill contains \$250,000 for a study which would find ways to enhance the waterfront area in Huntington, and other West Virginian urban areas on the the Ohio River. This study will be used to improve both the recreational and industrial applications of the waterfront area, and to increase the effectiveness of flood control and drought management plans.

Funds are also directed to existing Corps of Engineers projects throughout the state. Money for these sites will be applied to maintenance and operating costs which will allow West Virginians to continue enjoying these recreation facilities. This section of the bill funds the following areas: Beech Fork Lake -- \$632,000, Bluestone Lake -- \$1,043,000, Burnsville Lake -- \$1,124,000, East Lynn Lake -- \$999,000, Elkins -- \$12,000, Kanawha River Locks and Dams -- \$7,765,000, R.D. Bailey Lake -- \$1,364,000, Stonewall Jackson Lake -- \$682,000, Summersville Lake -- \$1,063,000, Sutton Lake -- \$1,269,000, and Tygart Lake -- \$641,000.

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