


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

CONGRESSMAN

  
**Nick Rahall**

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: T. KENT KEYSER  
ACTING PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1989

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

### RAHALL SUPPORTS RURAL AID FUNDING IN HOUSE REMARKS

WASHINGTON, DC -- In remarks before the House of Representatives today, U. S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-W.Va.) urged his colleagues to support HR 2883, the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for FY 1990. "This measure funds a variety of worthwhile programs that provide critical assistance to West Virginia," Rahall said in his statement to the House of Representatives.

Included in the bill is a \$713.3 million appropriation for child nutrition programs. As a result of this funding and increases in customs receipts, which also fund these programs, there would be a \$992.3 million increase in federal outlays for child nutrition programs over the last year. Rep. Rahall stressed that in West Virginia 34% of all children are eligible for these programs, which make food "available to little children who are hungry, and who could not learn on an empty stomach."

Funding for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, popularly known as WIC, would be increased from \$1.9 billion to \$2.126 billion by a provision of this bill. As a result of this increase, the program would be able to serve an additional 300,000 individuals next year. Rahall indicated that in his district less than half of those eligible for WIC receive funds, and expressed hope that the bill would pass so that these people's needs could be served.

The Farmers Home Administration receives \$9.1 billion under this bill. These funds would be used to improve housing, water, and sewage systems in rural areas. In addition, \$300 million has been included to provide rental assistance to low income individuals.

Of special interest to West Virginia is the inclusion of \$656 million for the Rural Development Insurance Fund. This fund provides loans for rural industrial development in order to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural areas. "Such loans are needed in West Virginia as we actively seek to expand our industrial and economic base and solve our unemployment problem," Rahall said.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$733 million for the Soil Conservation Service, which Rahall referred to as "an indispensable program." The funds appropriated by the bill would be directed to rural areas in order to conserve soil and water, and to reduce potential damage by floods.

-- 30 --



STATEMENT OF NICK J. RAHALL, II  
SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2883, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY90  
JULY 18, 1989

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support for H.R. 2883, the FY90 appropriations for Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies. This measure funds a variety of worthwhile programs that provide critical assistance to my home State of West Virginia as well as other areas throughout the Nation. Many of West Virginia's needy are dependent on the assistance provided by these programs while we in the State work to solve the economic and social problems brought about by the erosion of the State's industrial base and the resulting rates of high unemployment.

I would like to begin by discussing appropriations contained in H.R. 2883 for the school lunch and child nutrition programs which are of such significant importance to West Virginia. As most of my constituents know, the child nutrition and school lunch and breakfast programs are entitlements. Funds in the amount of \$4.869 billion are transferred this year from customs receipts to cover most of the costs, leaving an appropriation of \$713.3 million necessary in FY 1990. This increase, from \$4.590 billion in FY 1989 in transferred customs receipts, to \$4.869 billion in FY 1990, plus the additional \$713.3 million in appropriations, will amount to an increase of \$992.3 million over last year for child nutrition programs in the United States.

In West Virginia, where 34 percent of children served in our public schools are eligible for free lunches and breakfasts due to an unstable economy and high unemployment rates in many regions, I am gratified that the Federal subsidies for each meal served, paid meals as well as reduced-price and free meals, are available to little children who are hungry, and who

could not otherwise learn on an empty stomach. In some counties in my district, upwards of 82 percent of children in attendance are eligible for free lunch and breakfast. For this reason I am pleased that appropriations will continue to be available to support Section 4 of the National School Lunch program which is the very foundation of the free and reduced price meals for hungry children.

The Special Milk Program which is also vital to the health and well being of low income children in our schools, is increased from \$19.09 last year to \$20.4 in FY 1990, and again is counted as being of significant importance to alleviating hunger nationwide.

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC, is increased from the FY 1989 level of \$1.9 billion to \$2.126 billion in FY 1990. This program will be able to serve in excess of an additional 300,000 participants in the next year. WIC, which returns \$3 for every \$1 spent on pre- and postnatal care, is a program that enjoys broad bipartisan support in the Congress and in the country at large, and which has proven to be an outstanding success. Nationwide, WIC serves on average about 3.9 million women, infants and children per month. In my Fourth District in WV, where less than one-half of all those eligible for WIC are currently being served, these additional funds are urgently needed and will be gratefully received.

Food donation programs, for needy families, the elderly, soup kitchens, all have been given modest increases in FY 1990, which programs will continue to help alleviate, if not eliminate, hunger in the United States. There are \$120 million appropriated to purchase commodities for the critical use of families with temporary emergency food assistance needs (TEFAP), and in addition there are \$50 million provided to states to



support their statewide commodity storage and delivery systems to ensure that these families and individuals will receive donated foods.

Food stamp appropriations are set at \$14.2 billion in FY 1990, an increase of \$377 million over last year, and \$112 million more than the Administration requested.

H.R. 2883 appropriates \$9.1 billion for the Farmers Home Administration which is responsible for this country's rural development programs, including housing, water and sewer grants and loans. Within the Rural Housing Insurance Fund, which makes rural housing loans used to construct, improve, repair or replace modest homes, the bill provides for insured loans totaling \$1.9 billion. This is \$100 million more than allowed for in FY89. Funds are also included for numerous other FmHA rural housing programs, including \$300 million in rental assistance to reduce the rents paid by low-income persons and \$570,000 for rural housing site development loans.

Another program funded in this measure is the Rural Development Insurance Fund. The bill provides substantially more funding than the administration's apparent request for both loans and grants for rural water and sewer facilities. Included is \$370 million in direct loans, \$75 million in guaranteed loans and \$209 million for grants. The Fund also grants rural industrial development loans for the purpose of improving, developing or financing business, industry and employment or improving the economic and environmental climate in rural areas. Such loans are much needed in West Virginia as we in the State actively seek to expand our industrial and economic base and solve our unemployment problem.

H.R. 2883 appropriates \$733 million for the Soil Conservation Service which is an indispensable program in West Virginia. The SCC works with conservation districts, watershed groups and Federal and State agencies

whose job is to conserve soil and water resources and reduce damage by floods and sedimentation.

In closing Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleague to support this measure which allocates funds for programs of such great importance to many throughout this nation, especially in America's rural areas.