

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAVES EDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today the passage of H.R. 2991, The Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1990. The bill appropriates \$5.8 billion for those programs and agencies currently authorized by law, such as the National Weather Service and Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers. In addition, another \$11.4 billion has been reserved to cover programs for which authorizations have yet to be renewed, including the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

"The EDA is of vital importance to my home State of West Virginia, and I am pleased that the Committee has continued to reject efforts to eliminate this program which does so much to help the needy communities of this nation," said Rahall. "Throughout its history, the EDA has provided a much needed boost for chronically depressed and historically deprived communities. EDA pinpoints areas in great need and assists them with projects that will spur the economic growth needed to increase jobs and enlarge tax bases."

The EDA has helped many small businesses through start-up funds, small business incubators, and Industrial Parks. An incubator provides for the collective use of clerical and accounting personnel, office machinery, and warehouse space, while industrial parks allow small industries to share water, sewer, and electrical facilities.

"By providing start-up funds and technical expertise, EDA programs provide the impetus to stimulate the formation of small businesses and industries which are vital to the economic growth and stability of distressed communities throughout the country," said Rahall.

Programs, of importance to West Virginia, that did receive renewed appropriations from H.R. 2991 were the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for its aviation weather services program, and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers. The National Weather Service was appropriated \$14.3 million, and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers received \$10.8 million. Both will maintain current operating levels.

"I am encouraged by what we have accomplished during such times of fiscal restraint," concluded Rahall. "However, there is still much work to be done and many important programs must be protected."

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STATEMENT OF NICK J. RAHALL, II
SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2991, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, FY90
AUGUST 1, 1989

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support H.R. 2991, FY90 appropriations for Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies. The bill appropriates a total of \$5.8 billion for FY90 for only those programs and agencies currently authorized by law. The committee report indicates that it has reserved approximately \$11.4 billion to cover programs for which authorizations have yet to be renewed, including the Economic Development Administration.

The EDA is of vital importance to my home State of West Virginia, and I am pleased that the Committee has continued to reject efforts to eliminate this program which does so much to help the needy communities of this nation. The number one goal of the EDA is the creation of jobs, obviously a most pressing issue in West Virginia. Throughout its history, the EDA has provided a much needed extra boost for chronically depressed and historically deprived communities. EDA pinpoints areas in great need and assists them with projects that will spur the economic growth needed to increase jobs and enlarge tax bases.

Of special importance to communities such as those in southern West Virginia is EDA's focus on small business incubators. I am actively exploring the use of the business incubator in my Congressional district with local leaders and business people. An incubator provides for the collective use of clerical and accounting personnel, office machinery and warehouse space by fledgling businesses with little capital. By lowering the overhead costs for such businesses, this type of program ensures that many small businesses succeed in these economically difficult times.

Another program administered by the EDA provides for the creation of industrial parks. This innovative concept of sharing resources is similar to the business incubator concept. Small industries share water, sewer and electrical facilities, thereby reducing costs and increasing their chances of long-term success. The program has been extremely successful in Mercer County in my Congressional district, and we in the State continue to push the option for other areas.

The EDA is exactly the kind of program we in the Congress should be strongly supporting. [By providing start-up funds and technical expertise, EDA programs provide the impetus to stimulate the formation of small businesses and industries which are vital to the economic growth and stability of depressed and distressed communities throughout the country.]

Other funding in this appropriations measure of importance to West Virginia is that included for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for its aviation weather services program. H.R. 2991 appropriates \$14.3 million for maintaining the current level of activities of the National Weather Service. This includes funding to maintain current operating levels for all weather stations for FY90, including those at Beckley, Bluefield and Huntington, West Virginia. The up-to-the-minute weather and flight condition information provided by these weather stations is critical to pilots not only in West Virginia but throughout the country.

Finally, I would like to briefly mention how pleased I am that this legislation appropriates \$10.8 million for the continuation of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. This level provides for the continuation of all Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers at current operating levels. The services provided under this program are of great importance to many unemployed workers in West Virginia, especially those who have been involved

in coal and steel production, whose jobs have been lost due to unfair trade practices by many of our trade partners. [This program has been a tremendous boost for those men and women who desperately want to work to support themselves and their families but who can no longer find employment in the fields of work for which they are trained. The training offered by the TAA program enables many to master a new trade and start in a new line of worthwhile, fulfilling work to provide for themselves and their families.]

To close Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the funding contained in this appropriations measure for the above mentioned programs and many others. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2991.