

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

*Very good
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: STEPHEN SPINA

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PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ARC

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today that the conference report on H.R. 2696, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations, has overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 291-27.

"The best part of the report is that the Appalachian Regional Commission has received additional funding so that it can speed up its completion of the Appalachian Corridor System," said Rahall. "If it had continued at its present rate, the corridor system would not have been completed until at least 2065."

The report appropriates \$150 million for the ARC, which is nearly a \$40 million increase over last year's appropriations. Of that \$150 million, the report calls for at least \$20 million being set aside for Corridors G and H in West Virginia.

Of particular importance to the economic prosperity of West Virginia is the funding of water development projects which will greatly improve the region's ability to effectively transport goods. The bill calls for \$78.9 million for continued construction of new locks at Gallipolis on the Ohio River, about 30 miles upstream from Huntington, West Virginia, and another \$20.8 million for construction at Winfield Locks on the Kanawha.

The bill also contains funding for flood control. Southern West Virginia also benefits from these appropriations since \$51.3 million has been earmarked for flood control projects on the Levisa and Tug Forks and upper Cumberland River.

"These projects, such as the flood walls at Williamson and the floodproofing of homes in that area, are crucial to the future of the Tug Valley communities which are repeatedly threatened by severe flooding," said Rahall.

Also included in the report is funding for the operation and maintenance of several lakes in Southern West Virginia: Beech Fork Lake \$632,000; Bluestone Lake \$1,043,000; Burnsville Lake \$1,124,000; Charleston Riverfront \$250,000; 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; Tygart Lake \$641,000.

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STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, II
SUPPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2696, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATIONS, FY90
SEPTEMBER 12, 1989

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 2696, Energy and Water Development Appropriations for FY 1990. Of great importance to my home state of West Virginia is funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and for the Army Corps of Engineers water development projects.

Since 1965 the ARC has worked to fight poverty in Appalachia through a variety of health, education, and job training programs. Of course, a key component to any economic development strategy, and a major component of the ARC's program, is the construction and maintenance of infrastructure. The ARC has played a significant role in the economic development of Appalachia by funding, and working to finish, the construction of the 3000 mile Appalachian Corridor System.

Despite the ARC's efforts, much work remains to be done. Many in Appalachia continue to struggle against poverty, illiteracy, shortages in health care, high infant mortality and high unemployment rates. The corridor system, the foundation of any future economic prosperity in the Region, is still only two-thirds complete. It has been estimated that at current funding levels, the construction of the corridor system will not be finished until at least 2065. Corridor G, which links various communities in my district with important economic centers, will not be completed for another 25 years at the current rate of funding.

The compromise appropriates \$150 million for the ARC, which has been, and remains to be, of critical importance to West Virginia and other areas of Appalachia. While I am disappointed that the compromise did not contain a funding level closer to the level contained in H.R. 1166, legislation I introduced which reauthorized the Commission at \$185 million per year for five years, I am encouraged by the nearly \$40 million increase over last year's appropriation. I must commend the conferees for setting aside \$20 million of that funding specifically for Corridors G and H in West Virginia. This represents a trend in the right direction, and will be immensely helpful to the continuing development process of the Region.

Also of importance to the economic prosperity of West Virginia is the funding of water development projects, contained in the compromise, which will greatly improve West Virginia's ability to efficiently transport goods. The bill provides \$78.9 million for continued construction of new locks at Gallipolis on the Ohio River, about 30 miles upstream from Huntington, West Virginia. This construction will replace the badly deteriorated locks which were completed in 1937. In addition, the compromise provides \$20.8 million for construction at Winfield Locks on the Kanawha. The water traffic which must pass through these locks has quintupled, making the original design of the locks obsolete.

The bill also contains funding for flood control. Of particular importance to southern West Virginia is \$51.3 million for flood control projects on the Levisa and Tug Forks and upper Cumberland River. These projects, such as the flood walls at Williamson and the floodproofing of homes in that area, are crucial to the future of the Tug Valley communities which have been repeatedly destroyed by severe flooding.

The compromise agreement also provides important funding for the operation and maintenance of existing Corps of Engineers projects throughout West Virginia. Included is funding for the operation and maintenance at the following areas:

Beech Fork Lake	\$632,000
Bluestone Lake	\$1,043,000
Burnsville Lake	\$1,124,000
Charleston Riverfront	\$250,000
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
Tygart Lake	\$641,000

Again, I want to commend the conferees for their cooperation and attention to the funding needs of the ARC, and these other worthy projects, and I wish to urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this report.