



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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STATEMENT OF REP. NICK J. RAHALL II (D-WV)
TENTATIVE AGREEMENT IN UMWA-PITTSTON STRIKE

THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN REACHED IN THE PITTSTON-UMWA LABOR DISPUTE IS AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING FOR THE NEW YEAR. I COMMEND UMWA PRESIDENT RICH TRUMKA AND PITTSTON PRESIDENT PAUL DOUGLAS AS WELL AS LABOR SECRETARY DOLE AND MEDIATOR USERY FOR THEIR TENACITY IN SEEKING COMMON GROUND FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE STRIKE.

MOREOVER, I COMMEND THE RANK AND FILE UMWA MEMBERS WHO FOR NINE MONTHS NOW HAVE STOOD FIRM IN THEIR CONVICTIONS IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. THROUGH AN UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO THEIR JUST CAUSE, THEY HAVE SHOWN THE WORLD THAT LABOR DISPUTES IN THE UNITED STATES CAN BE SETTLED IN A PEACEFUL AND DELIBERATIVE FASHION. IT IS, OF COURSE, THESE MEMBERS WHO WILL ULTIMATELY PASS JUDGMENT ON THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN REACHED.

I AM ALSO LOOKING FORWARD WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES TO INSURE THE LONG-TERM STABILITY OF PENSION AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR MINERS AND RETIREES. THIS IS A MATTER OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE, AND I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY IS SOMETHING THAT WILL ULTIMATELY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE CONGRESS FOR CONSIDERATION.

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