



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAHALL COMMENDS THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF KEYSTONE

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- At a luncheon today in downtown Charleston, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) commended the efforts of Governor Caperton, Knox McConnell, and Louis Pais in their far-sighted vision in establishing a \$20 million Small Business Loan Program for West Virginia.

In referring to the vision of those who helped to forge this program, Rahall made reference to the ancient Greeks, "if Athens shall appear great to you, remember that her glory was purchased by valiant men and men who knew their duty... I want to also take this opportunity to thank some valiant men-- men who knew their duty. Knox McConnell, Louis Pais, I thank you."

Rahall continued, "Governor Caperton, the actions of the First National Bank of Keystone will speak louder than our words today. For today, we witness partnership. Today, we celebrate progress."

The Small Business Loan Program will be funded by the First National Bank of Keystone which will grant loans based on applications submitted through universities such as Marshall, Concord College and Southern West Virginia Community College. 60 percent of the \$20 million will go expressly to Southern West Virginia.

"McDowell County presents a challenge to all West Virginians today. Here is a county who has led the nation in unemployment through long periods the last decade," said Rahall. "And yet is making a multi-million dollar investment in the center of a beleaguered economy. Sometimes we in the rest of the State have to be reminded that Mountaineers are always free, but no one forgets that in the free state of McDowell!"

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