



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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RAHALL SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), who has in recent months made it a top priority to develop an Economic Development Coalition on Capitol Hill, today announced the introduction of the "Economic Development Assistance Program" Act of 1989. The bill, which Rahall introduced with Congressman James Traficant, Jr. (D-OH), would create a spirit of cooperation between the private sector and the Federal Government to revitalize economically depressed areas.

"The only way that we are going to give West Virginia the shot in the arm that she needs is through the active cooperation between the public and private sectors," said Rahall. "This bill will enhance an existing tool which has been successful in other areas."

The bill would call for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary to make grants to Community Development Corporations (CDC's) to buy-down interest rates on economic development loans to businesses and nonprofit organizations. These loans would be used specifically for projects and activities that assist in rejuvenating economically depressed areas.

Rahall noted that he has already contacted the members of the banking community in Southern West Virginia urging them to look into the program and showing them how to apply.

The bill is being offered as a compliment to the Urban Development Action Grant Program (UDAG) that Rahall testified on behalf of only weeks ago.

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