

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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LEGISLATION STOPPING HUNTINGTON CORPS DOWNSIZING MOVES FORWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. House of Representatives today again passed legislation to stop the proposed downsizing of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District Office, according to U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV).

The House, by a vote of 332 to 81, passed the final version of the 1994 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which contained a provision prohibiting the Corps from spending funds to close any district office or transfer the functions of any district office.

"This provision will be an iron-clad assurance that the Corps will leave the current functions of the Huntington District Office intact through the next fiscal year." Added Rahall, "Senator Byrd's efforts to include this language in the Senate bill were essential to its ultimate success.

"It is also my hope this measure will send a strong signal of the intent of the Congress to those who would consider the ill conceived Corps reorganization plan part of the effort to reinvent government," Rahall said.

The House had passed a similar measure earlier this year, and the Senate also acted to include the language in its version of the bill. The legislation now awaits further Senate action and the President's signature to become law.

Without the provision, the Corps could have continually eaten away at specific functions of district offices by imposing full-time equivalent cuts incapacitating certain functions. The Corps would then argue the functions ought to be transferred to another location where they could be more efficiently handled.

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