



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

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**HOUSE TO CONSIDER THREE RAHALL BILLS THIS WEEK**

On Monday, November 8th, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on two bills being advanced by U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV):

**"WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS CONSERVATION ACT OF 1993"**

The bill would, among other things, establish the Upper New National Scenic River on the 14.5 mile segment of the New River that runs from the West Virginia/Virginia State line downstream to the Bluestone Lake in Summers County. The legislation is intended to preclude the approval of a right-of-way across this river segment for the proposed APCO 765 kv powerline.

**"INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT"**

The bill makes a number of amendments to the last major federal highway bill, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Included in the measure is a provision to reaffirm the routing of the proposed Transamerica (or I-66) Highway Corridor through southern West Virginia, and a provision to facilitate the construction of the proposed New River Parkway by clarifying that it be built along the West side of the river.

The House is also scheduled to consider, on either Tuesday or Wednesday, the following Rahall bill:

**REFORM OF THE MINING LAW OF 1872**

This law still allows minerals such as gold and silver to be mined from federal lands owned by all Americans in the western states for free. Each year, about \$1.8 billion worth of public minerals are produced in this manner. The law also allows these public mineral lands to be sold for \$2.50 an acre. The Rahall bill would require the payment of an 8% production royalty, and would halt the practice of transferring title to these federal lands at fire sale prices. Last Wednesday, the bill was approved by the Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 28-14.