

U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 1993

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Acting Press Secretary
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SPEEDY APPROVAL OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS A MUST

Potential Airport Users Critical To Projects Success

BECKLEY, WV -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) has requested the U.S. Economic Development Administration expedite its consideration of a grant application to fund an economic impact analysis of the proposed regional airport for southwestern West Virginia.

"I support an economic impact study for the regional airport, but I do not want to in anyway slow the progress that has been made with the FAA funding the final stages of its study to locate a viable site for the airport," Rahall said. "I want the Economic Development Administration to realize how important it is that not only should the study be funded but that it must be done in a timely manner to keep the project on track."

Currently the Federal Aviation Administration is conducting phase three of an environmental impact assessment to determine a suitable site for a regional airport serving Huntington, Charleston and Parkersburg and the surrounding region. The study is expected to be completed in the Spring of 1995.

"The economic impact analysis will demonstrate the job creating potential of a regional airport. It will not only assist us in planning a facility that will serve our economy, but it will allow us to identify those segments of business and industry on whose doors we need to be knocking now to take full advantage of the project," Rahall said. "We not only have to sell this package to the airlines, we have to approach potential users of the airport as well. We must begin this process of identifying potential customers as quickly as possible. They are obviously critical to the airport's overall success."

The grant application has been submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Philadelphia Regional Office by the Putnam County Development Authority directed by Deborah Phillips.

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NICK J. RAHALL II
3d DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

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December 2, 1993

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Mr. John E. Corrigan
Regional Director
U S Economic Development Admin
Room 140 S Curtis Ctr
Independence Square W
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Jack:

It has been brought to my attention that the Putnam County Development Authority has submitted a grant proposal for Title IX funding for a study to determine the economic impact of a regional airport in southwestern West Virginia. I am writing to lend all possible support to this proposal.

The Federal Aviation Administration has funded a study to determine the feasibility of building a regional airport in southwestern West Virginia. This study determined that a regional airport was feasible and warranted. The site selection phase has been completed and three sites were chosen as potential sites.

An economic impact study will greatly assist in determining the most desirable site on which to locate the regional airport or to determine if, indeed, West Virginia wants to pursue building a regional airport.

The project consultants are currently conducting the environmental impact assessment. In order to keep the project on schedule, it is necessary to begin the economic impact study as soon as possible. Your assistance in expediting the processing of this proposal will be greatly appreciated.


Since this matter falls under your jurisdiction, I am referring it to your office for consideration. Please address any reply you may have to my Huntington Office, address above.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of this request.

Mr. John E. Corrigan
December 2, 1993
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With warm regard and wishes for a Happy Holiday season, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nick Rahall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nick" and last name "Rahall" clearly distinguishable.

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/jrc

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