



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RAHALL INITIATIVES BEING ACTED ON THIS WEEK

**House Floor Action on Black Lung
National Highway System Designation Vote
WV Rivers Bill Gets Senate Hearing**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Three diverse legislative initiatives being advanced by U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) will see some form of Congressional action this week.

The Federal black lung reform bill is slated for a vote by the House of Representatives on Thursday. Also on that day, the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Parks and Forests is scheduled to conduct a hearing on the "West Virginia Rivers Conservation Act" which passed the House last year. And on Tuesday, the Committee on Public Works and Transportation will consider Rahall's bill to designate the new National Highway System.

Since the Education and Labor Committee approved the black lung reform bill on April 13th, Rahall has aggressively worked Members of the House Rules Committee and Budget Committee to insure that the opponents of the bill were not successful in advancing their claims that it violates the Budget Act. Getting a date for full House action on the measure, Rahall said, is an indication that his arguments are prevailing.

"I have always maintained that victims of black lung disease are entitled to just compensation, and that in recent years the Federal government has reneged on its promise to provide that compensation," Rahall stated. "Nobody is looking for handouts. All those who suffer from black lung want is what they are due."

After clearing the House by voice vote during the early morning hours of November 23, 1993, the West Virginia rivers bill has been pending before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Parks and Forests. The centerpiece of the bill is its designation as a National Scenic River the segment of the New River that lies South of Bluestone Lake. Rahall said that the Senate hearing on the bill is a positive first step toward it being acted upon.

The Committee on Public Works and Transportation's meeting on the National Highway System designation legislation follows close on the heels of it being approved by Rahall's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation last Thursday. The bill would designate an 159,000 mile system of high priority Federal aid eligible highways in the country.



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