



U.S. Congressman

**Nick Rahall**

*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 14, 1994

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER  
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**FATE OF MONAVILLE POST OFFICE RESTS IN PUBLIC HANDS**

WASHINGTON D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that the U.S. Postal Service has scheduled a town meeting for the residents of Monaville in Logan County, to discuss the future of the Monaville Post Office, which was closed early this year because of bat droppings in the ceiling area which were said to create a public health risk.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 1994, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Logan Post Office.

"I urge the residents of Monaville to attend this important meeting. The Postal Service will use a lack of citizens' participation in the meeting to support its effort to close Monaville. The meeting on the 28th is everyone's chance to be heard. If the residents of Monaville tell the Postal Service as a result of the Town Meeting that they are willing to use other services, such as the not-yet built Wilkinson Post Office, rather than to reopen Monaville, then I will abide by their decision," Rahall said.

"I have opposed this closure for several reasons, first because 484 Monaville residents have let me know they want their Post Office reopened," Rahall said, "and secondly because the Logan County Department of Health has twice declared the building safe to inhabit." The first such finding by Logan County Health came several years ago, when the bats were first discovered, at which time actions were taken to seal the building. The second finding by Logan County Health that the building is safe to inhabit came after the Postal Service closed Monaville because of supposed public health risks.

The Postal Service's own environmental specialist inspected the building. The results showed no new bat infestation since the building was sealed, and its own report stated that it could be sanitized by removing the old bat droppings, replacing ceiling tiles and insulation, and washing the area with chemicals. The Postal Service has made no move to carry out its own Inspector's recommendations for this sanitization procedure to make the building acceptable to them.

Rahall believes that the emergency closing was just another instance of the Postal Service seeing a chance to close another small, rural post office in the State. "There are 104 small post offices already under suspension in West Virginia, and I do not believe a single one of them will ever be reopened for service to their communities," Rahall said.

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WASH DC

(D.-W.Va.)

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"I have opposed this closure for several reasons," Rahall said, "but ~~mainly~~ <sup>and secondly</sup> because the Logan County Department of Health has twice declared the building safe to inhabit." The first such finding by Logan County Health came several years ago, when the bats were first discovered, at which time actions were taken to seal the building. The second finding by Logan County Health that the building is safe to inhabit came after the Postal Service closed Monaville because of supposed public health risks.

"While I have no desire to see a building reopened if there is any risk to the public health, said Rahall, "I have assurances from the local public health service that no such risk exists."

~~It should be noted that The Postal Service's own environmental specialist who inspected the building said that the building shows no new bat infestation since the building was sealed, and its own report stated that it could be sanitized by removing the old bat droppings, replacing ceiling tiles and insulation which the owner has said he would do, and then to wash the area with specifically named chemicals to complete the sanitization process.~~ The Postal Service has made no move to carry out its own Inspector's recommendations for this sanitization procedure to make the building acceptable to them.

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