



U.S. Congressman

**Nick Rahall***WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 28, 1994CONTACT: JIM ZOIA  
(202) 225-9989**RAHALL SCORES ONE FOR MINDEN**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Impoverished communities such as Minden, West Virginia, whose residents are suffering severe health problems as a result of being exposed to toxic substances will receive special health services under an amendment U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) gained approval of today.

"This is a resounding victory for the people Minden, for social justice and for economic justice," Rahall declared after the Committee on Public Works and Transportation accepted his amendment to the Superfund reauthorization bill.

Earlier this month the Committee received testimony from Larry Rose, chairperson of Concerned Citizens For Fayette County, and Lucian Randall, who Rahall described as a victim of the government's failure to cleanup the contaminated Shaffer Equipment site at Minden. At the time, the two Fayette County residents urged the Congress to enact legislation that would empower communities affected by Superfund sites with environmental health clinics and services.

Based on that testimony, Rahall crafted an amendment to the Superfund reauthorization bill that was approved by the Public Works and Transportation Committee today.

Under the Rahall amendment, the Federal government through grants, cooperative agreements or contracts would be directed to provide for the establishment of environmental health clinics, or health services in existing clinics, serving communities affected by the release of hazardous substances. These clinics would provide diagnostic services, specialized treatment, health data registries and preventative public health education. The amendment authorizes \$20 million per year for these activities.

"Obtaining environmental restoration at Superfund sites simply is not enough," Rahall said. "This amendment says that we can no longer ignore the human factor in the Superfund program."

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