



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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WORKERS BENEFIT UNDER RAHALL SUPERFUND AMENDMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) yesterday successfully amended a Superfund reauthorization bill with provisions to provide for better trained and paid workers at hazardous material cleanup projects.

"The public investment in environmental restoration projects is ill-served if we cannot protect, to the fullest extent possible, the health and safety of the worker," Rahall stated after the Committee on Public Works and Transportation accepted his amendments to the Superfund reauthorization bill.

One Rahall amendment increased the amount of funds that will be available for a Superfund program administered by the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences which provides grants for worker training programs. One such program is administered by the International Union of Operating Engineers at the National Mine Safety and Health Academy in Beckley.

Another Rahall amendment seeks to insure that the prevailing wage rate will be paid to mechanics and laborers employed at Superfund financed cleanup projects.

"By providing for the prevailing wage rate to be paid at federally assisted Superfund projects, we are insuring that a well-trained workforce will be employed," Rahall noted. "And by using a well-trained workforce, money will be saved because the project will be done right, the first time, and not be revisited again and again."

Rahall also noted that the provision will help insure that out-of-state contractors using lower paid and untrained workers will not undercut West Virginia firms and employees.

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