



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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CONTACT: STEPHEN SPINA

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PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL SEEKS GREATER PROTECTION FOR MATEWAN AREA

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced a bold new plan to provide flood protection for Hatfield Bottom area of the Town of Matewan. Rahall made the announcement after meeting with Colonel Thomas Farewell, District Engineer for Huntington.

The Hatfield Bottom area, which had been put on the back burner, had originally been part of the Big Bend project, which now faces a 50-50 cost share basis with a local sponsor and the Federal Government. However, if the area could be included in the Matewan project it would become fully federally funded in addition to being given more pressing priority.

Colonel Farewell will soon submit the proposal to the Corps chain of command. Meanwhile, Rahall has taken steps with Robert W. Page, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, to push forward with the plan.

"The Hatfield Bottom area deserves protection from the devastation of flooding," said Rahall in comments after the meeting. "It is the most populous region of Matewan, and protecting the lives and property of these citizens is paramount."

The Congressman also estimated that the entire pricetag for the project would be \$7 million and pledged his support in seeking the necessary funding.

Congressman Rahall is a ranking member of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, which has legislative jurisdiction on flood protection projects.

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