



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: STEPHEN SPINA

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PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL SUPPORTS EDA, USTTA FUNDING

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today that the Conference Report on H.R. 2991, the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations for fiscal year 1990 passed late last night as the House stayed late to finish up business. Included in the overall package was \$191 million for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), \$14.3 million to support the activities of the United States Travel and Tourism Administration (USTTA), \$10.9 million for the continuation of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, and a whopping \$1.3 billion for the Federal Census Bureau for their work of counting the total population in 1990.

"Tourism, increased trade revenue, new economic outlets-- these are the issues that will be leading West Virginia into the 1990's," said Rahall. "I am happy to see that all have been funded adequately for the upcoming fiscal year."

The \$191 million for EDA will help them to continue their help of economically needy areas for assistance. EDA grants finance roads, waste water treatment, business incubators, industrial parks, vocational schools, and other projects important to the creation of new jobs and long-term development, as well as assisting in a variety of important projects.

"EDA's worth cannot be measured, they have been instrumental in providing new jobs to West Virginia for many years," said Rahall. "I commend the conferees for providing these funds for this worthy program."

The agreement also calls for funding of \$14.3 million to support the USTTA in creating exciting and innovative strategies to help The U.S. compete in the world tourism market. This is especially important to West Virginia, who find that their tourism industry is the state's number two money maker, second only to coal.

"Nationally, USTTA encouraged foreign travellers to spend \$29.2 billion in 1988. In 1989, foreign travellers are projected to spend \$1.2 billion more than U.S. travellers spent," said Rahall. "I think that these figures indicate that funds for USTTA is money well spent."

Another program, important to the people of West Virginia that received substantial funding, is the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program. The \$10.9 million will go to the continuation of all Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers at current operating levels. These centers help men and women, especially those who have worked in the coal and steel industries, who desperately want to work to support themselves and their families.

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"The training offered by the TAA program enables many to master a new trade and start in a new line of worthwhile, fulfilling work," said Rahall.

"Increasing our tax base, increasing employment through new business opportunities, increasing our share of the world market-- these are the kinds of things that we must do if we are to succeed in building a better West Virginia."

STATEMENT OF NICK J. RAHALL, II
SUPPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2991, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE,
THE JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, FY90
OCTOBER 25, 1989

Mr. Chairman. I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 2991, the FY 1990 appropriations bill for Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight those programs which are of particular importance to my home state of West Virginia.

The agreement provides \$191 million for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA is of vital importance to the state of West Virginia. The EDA targets economically needy areas for assistance. EDA grants finance roads, waste water treatment, business incubators, industrial parks, vocational schools and other projects important to the creation of new jobs and long-term development. The EDA also provides small businesses with the necessary start-up funding essential to begin operation.

While it is difficult to successfully measure the direct effectiveness of EDA due to its mission, various econometric analyses have supported the notion that EDA has had a positive effect on employment. I know that in West Virginia, EDA has been instrumental in assisting in a variety of important projects.

I commend the conferees for providing these funds for this worthy program. We should be promoting economic growth to increase our tax base, increase employment, increase our share of the world market, and ultimately to decrease the dual deficits. Support of EDA is a good first step in this effort.

I am also pleased that the agreement includes language requiring the agency to make or complete grants for projects described in the FY 1989 Appropriations Act. Unfortunately, there was some confusion regarding Congressional intent with respect to the funding of certain projects contained in last year's appropriations bill. As a result of this confusion, funds have not yet been dispersed to Marshall University to help fund the creation of an Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing Systems.

This project is meant to support the transfer of technology and innovation within West Virginia, stimulate joint venture opportunities between university and industry, provide education and retraining, and generally assure the successful competition in regional, national and world markets. It is my hope that the language in the agreement has clarified our intent.

The agreement also provides \$14.3 million to support the activities of the United States Travel and Tourism Administration (USTTA). This important agency promotes international travel to the United States and provides states with information on potential markets and how to best target those markets. Next to coal, tourism is the largest industry in West Virginia.

The USTTA has greatly assisted West Virginia attract foreign business. In 1986, foreign travellers spent \$10.8 million in our state. Nationally, USTTA encouraged foreign travellers to spend \$29.2 billion in 1988. In 1989, foreign travellers are projected to spend \$1.2 billion more than U.S. travellers spend abroad. I think it is clear that the \$14.3 million the agreement provides for this program is money well spent, and I hope that we will be able to provide the agency with more funding in FY 1991.

Finally, I would like to mention how pleased I am that this agreement provides \$10.9 million for the continuation of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program. This level provides for the continuation of all Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers at current operating levels. The services provided under this program are of great importance to many unemployed workers in West Virginia, especially those who have been involved in coal and steel production, whose jobs have been lost due to unfair trade practices by many of our trade partners. This program has greatly assisted those men and women who desperately want to work to support themselves and their families, but who can no longer find employment in the fields of work for which they are trained. The training offered by the TAA program enables many to master a new trade and start in a new line of worthwhile, fulfilling work to provide for themselves and their families.

I strongly support the funding provided in this agreement and urge my colleagues to support its adoption.