



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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RAHALL TO TESTIFY BEFORE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) will testify tomorrow before the Government Operations subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation about his bill H.R. 4026, which calls for the pecking order of surplus property generated by the Defense Department to be returned to its original form: states first before foreign governments. The hearing will be held in room 2203 of the Rayburn Building at 9:30 a.m.

"The law is very clear in its original intent," said Rahall. "The original law, which dates back to 1949, called for surplus property from any federal agency to be offered to states first. This surplus property proved to be instrumental in helping local communities meet their needs. However, in 1986, a little known amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill changed all of that. Foreign governments were now at the top of the list to receive this property. My bill rights a wrong: it puts states first before foreign governments."

Also testifying will be the director of the Surplus Property Division in West Virginia, George Afflerbach. His testimony will concern the dire need for this surplus property in West Virginia.

"Piping for water systems, sheet metal for road construction, pan and scrapers, as well as scooploaders, all of this surplus property would be of vital use to West Virginia," said Rahall.

Rahall added by saying that, "one pan and scraper, which are already being used in West Virginia to move solid waste in our landfills, is estimated to be worth \$500,000. No local community could afford a piece of equipment like that. My bill sees to it that they don't have to."

Also testifying before the subcommittee is former Government Operations Committee Chairman Jack Brooks.

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