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U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****JULY 9, 1990****CONTACT: STEVE SPINA****PHONE: (202) 225-3452****RAHALL APPOINTED CONFEREE ON CLEAN AIR ACT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that he has been appointed a conferee on the Clean Air legislation that has been passed through the House and Senate.

The Clean Air Act is the most sweeping environmental protection legislation ever to be passed by both Houses. Included will be more stringent toxic emission standards for industries and greater tailpipe emission standards for cars as well.

Of greatest concern to West Virginia was the impact such legislation would have on the coal industry. Greater emission standards would result in more expensive scrubbing devices for coal. The loss of jobs for coal miners in the northern part of the state is expected to reach 5,000.

"As a conferee, I hope to aid in the preservation of the workman's compensation amendment," said Rahall. "Even though there will be no adverse economic effect on southern West Virginia because of our low-sulfur coal, I still want to see that those miners in the northern part of the state will receive just compensation."

Rahall pointed out that because southern West Virginia is primarily low-sulfur coal, it would be the only kind that would actually pass the tough new emissions standards without having to be altered. This would make the mines in southern West Virginia worth more and will actually serve to create more jobs in the Fourth District.

"I want to see West Virginia come out of this in a win-win situation. As a conferee, I intend to protect the language that profits southern West Virginia while at the same time fight to preserve the workman's compensation amendment so that those miners who do lose their jobs will be adequately compensated and retrained," said Rahall.

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