



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 10, 1990

CONTACT: JIM ZOIA
(202) 226-7761

RAHALL WV FISH HATCHERY PROJECT CLEARS HOUSE AGAIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. House of Representatives for the second time in less than a month has passed U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall's (D-WV) legislation to establish a new fish hatchery in southern West Virginia that would use water from an abandoned coal mine.

Rahall today revealed that he has tacked a provision authorizing the project onto three different bills. On June 14th, the House passed the hatchery measure as part of a water resources bill. Today's action on the provision came as part of a Rahall sponsored measure to provide for the remining and reclamation of abandoned coal mine lands. Meanwhile, the Rahall hatchery language was included in another bill already reported by a House committee that is waiting consideration by the full House.

"This constitutes a full court legislative press on behalf of McDowell County and all of southern West Virginia," Rahall said. "I view this project as not only necessary to serving the needs of West Virginia sportsmen but as a real opportunity for economic development."

Rahall and West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton formulated the plan to construct a new federal trout hatchery in southern West Virginia to address the dual fold problem of inadequate hatchery capacity to meet demand, and, existing hatcheries being too distant from many southern West Virginia lakes and streams to make trout distribution feasible.

"This would be the first hatchery in the country that would depend on water from an old coal mine," Rahall said when the House first passed the measure last month. "In a sense, we are developing a new industry by finding innovative uses, such as fish farming, for abandoned coal mines."

Under the legislation, \$2.5 million would be available for the necessary studies and construction costs to build the project. The bill, H.R. 4053, as well as the earlier House-passed measure, H.R. 2567, are now pending before the Senate.

- 30 -

HR 5333