



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULY 26, 1990**

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**RAHALL SECURES HATFIELD BOTTOM IN MATEWAN PROJECT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that a provision he added to the Water Resources Act of 1990 has been included in the bill which has been referred to the Public Works and Transportation Committee. That language would include the Hatfield Bottom area in the Matewan flood protection plan.

Rahall predicted that with his language in the house version and Senator Byrd's language in the Senate version, the chances of final passage were very strong. Rahall had begun his fight to protect Hatfield Bottom in November of last year when he met with Colonel Thomas Farewell of the Army Corps of Engineers. Since then, Rahall has worked to take Hatfield Bottom, which had originally been part of the Big Bend Project (a 50-50 cost share split), and have it placed within the Matewan framework (full federal funding).

"It just makes more sense," urged Rahall. "The Hatfield Bottom area is the most populous region of Matewan, and protecting the lives and property of these citizens is paramount."

Rahall cited Hatfield Bottom as the site of the local high school as proof of the enormous contribution that the area makes to Matewan. He added that residents have waited several years for floodproofing to begin only to discover that it would keep being delayed.

"I can see no reason why half the town of Matewan should be floodproofed by 1991 at full federal expense, while the most populated region would remain vulnerable to flooding well after 1992," said Rahall.

Rahall added that if all goes according to schedule, planning for Hatfield Bottom floodproofing could begin as soon as October.

"I am enthusiastic about the bill's chances and frankly I am relieved," said Rahall. "The people of Matewan deserve complete flood protection."

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*Yes  
Very good*

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