



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

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES RAHALL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT  
WEST VIRGINIA FROM LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. --** The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee today approved an amendment by U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) that requires notification to a state that low-level radioactive waste could be mixed with ordinary garbage being sent to the state for final disposal.

"I refuse to allow the State of West Virginia to become a victim in any future Nuclear Regulatory Commission low-level radioactive waste disposal policy that ignores the concerns of states that are targets for large quantities of out-of-state garbage," Rahall charged. "The idea that somebody could send low-level radioactive waste to West Virginia, without the state ever knowing it, enrages me. We will not be led blindfolded into such an ill-conceived policy," he continued.

The Rahall amendment was included in a bill that would revoke a July 3, 1990, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy that would permit the deregulation of certain low-level radioactive waste considered by the NRC to be "below regulatory concern". As a result of the policy, some low-level radioactive waste could be dumped into municipal landfills or treated like regular garbage. The legislation also would prevent the NRC from preempting any state law concerning the regulation of this type of waste if it becomes deregulated in the future.

"There is nothing to stop the NRC from issuing a similar policy in the future," Rahall explained. "For this reason, I believe we need an additional safety net of sorts. States that accept out-of-state waste have a right to know if low-level radioactive waste would be included in garbage coming from other states."

The Rahall amendment would require the NRC to issue regulations providing for timely advance notification to the Governor of any state prior to the transport into that state of any BRC waste from another state. The current policy is devoid of any requirements that deregulated waste be tracked for future evaluation.

"This legislation will ensure that West Virginia's citizens and environment are not exploited in the NRC's hasty efforts to deregulate low-level radioactive waste," Rahall said.