



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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CONTACT: STEVE SPINA

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL EXPRESSES RESERVATIONS ON BUDGET AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today expressed deep reservations regarding President Bush's speech to the American public asking them to embrace the budget summit package for the good of the country.

"I simply cannot embrace anything that plays to this same old tune," said Rahall. "Why should the middle-class have to carry on its back the waste of a decade, waste that was not of their doing. It is time that we stood up and said enough is enough."

Rahall pointed out the 10 cent gasoline tax, \$59.9 billion over 5 years in Medicare cuts, \$3.65 billion over 5 years in unspecified Veterans cuts, and an 8 cent tax on cigarettes as examples of unfair burden sharing.

"We talk about other nations and their role in defending the world. We talk about Japan and their responsibility to burden share. Well, the time has come for the richest segment of our society to stand up and shoulder their share of the burden," said Rahall. "They are the only ones who have benefitted from the budget busting bygone days of the Reagan revolution. Why should the wealthiest 1 percent of the nation now pay less taxes, and the rest pay more?"

"Former President Reagan's OMB Director David Stockman said years ago that there was easily \$30 or \$40 billion of fat that could be trimmed away from the federal government without taxing the people a single dime. We have over \$30 billion in spare parts and equipment, that the Defense Department said we couldn't live without, languishing in warehouses around the world. We have a foreign aid tab that no one wants to pay," said Rahall. "There are other avenues that we can travel, other roads we can take. I don't think that the middle class should continually be our first choice in carrying our national load."

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