

FOE[®] RELEASE

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ACTION

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 18, 1990

CONTACTS: DON BARGER
OR JIM LYON 202-544-2600

"FRIEND OF THE EARTH" AWARD PRESENTED TO NICK JOE RAHALL

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 18 -- U.S. Representative Nick Joe Rahall (D-WV) received a Friend of the Earth award today for his emerging leadership on environmental issues affecting America's coalfields. The award is presented once every two years to individuals who make significant contributions on issues important to Friends of the Earth Action.

"Since becoming Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, Congressman Rahall has worked with increasing diligence and effectiveness to ensure that coalfield communities are better protected against the ravages of surface mining," said Mike Clark, President of Friends of the Earth Action.

Friends of the Earth Action is a sister organization of Friends of the Earth, a 20-year-old global environmental organization with affiliated groups in 44 countries. Recently, Friends of the Earth merged with the Oceanic Society and with the Environmental Policy Institute, which has a long history of working on coalfield issues.

-MORE-

Rahall was cited in particular for conscientious oversight of laws protecting the people, land and water of the nation's coalfields against the environmental abuses of irresponsible energy development. As a Subcommittee Chairman, Representative Rahall has jurisdiction in overseeing the implementation and enforcement of the landmark federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA).

SMCRA was the first comprehensive federal law aimed at curbing the rampant environmental abuses from strip and underground coal mining through strict regulation of the coal industry, including stringent mining standards and reclamation requirements and extensive citizen rights provisions.

Friend of the Earth awards recognize outstanding achievements on behalf of environmental protection. They are awarded on a strictly nonpartisan basis and do not represent endorsement of a candidate for elected office. They are approved by the Board of Directors of Friends of the Earth Action.