



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSULTING FIRM CHOSEN TO DO WAYPORT STUDY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today was notified by Arch Gleason, West Virginia Secretary of Transportation, that HDR Consultants has been selected to undertake the study of a regional air facility for southern and central West Virginia. The study will be funded by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"Although the FAA grant has not yet been approved for this study, I am pleased that the West Virginia Department of Transportation and the Beckley office of the FAA are moving forward with this vital study. It is essential to the development of our State that our air service be drastically improved, and this study is the first step toward that goal," said Rahall.

Rahall urged Secretary Gleason to consult with the members of the West Virginia Wayport Authority to obtain their recommendations before sitting down with the consultants and the FAA to define the scope of the study.

"Given the mounting evidence of gridlock in our skies, we need to consider alternatives for spreading air traffic. One of those alternatives is the wayport concept," said Rahall. "I have worked closely with the State of West Virginia to prepare us for just such a facility, and I feel it is important for this study to include information applicable to Regional Transfer Hubs."

"Governor Caperton has also shown his dedication to this concept by signing into law last spring, in Huntington, the West Virginia Wayport Authority. I am asking Secretary Gleason and the Department of Transportation utilize this excellent resource when he is establishing the parameters of the FAA-funded study," urged Rahall.

Rahall said that he plans to work closely with the FAA once the application has been made by the Department of Transportation to ensure that these important funds are directed to West Virginia.

"The wayport is one of the concepts that I feel most strongly about, and it represents the kind of fresh initiatives we are going to need in West Virginia if we are to thrive. We are only out of the gate and it's a long way to the wire," said Rahall.

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