



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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ACID RAIN BILL CLEARS FINAL HURDLES
Rahall Saves Measure Represents Dovetailing of Interests
SAYS ?

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A massive rewrite of the Nation's Clean Air laws represents a dovetailing of southern West Virginia's economic and environmental interests in acid rain control legislation, U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) said this evening during debate prior to House approval of S. 1630, the Clean Air Act Amendments Act of 1990.

"I expect there will be increased demand for low-sulfur southern West Virginia coal. That's one for the economy and employment situation of the region I have the honor to represent," Rahall stated. "Obviously, this legislation will reduce those emissions which give rise to acidic deposition. That's one for the environment."

According to Rahall, because the bill will allow electric utilities the freedom of choice in how to come into compliance with its more stringent smokestack emission requirements, low-sulfur southern West Virginia will be the "fuel of choice." However, he noted that with the technology incentives provided by the pollution allowances system in the measure, and its incorporation of a worker compensation and training program, the ramifications of obtaining cleaner air on high-sulfur coal producers need not be feared.

"All in all this is a very well balance measure," Rahall noted in remarking that earlier legislative action would have been premature. "The types of measures that were under consideration in the past would have unduly harmed southern West Virginia. There simply was not a mindset among the proponents of acid rain controls to fashion a bill that incorporated what I felt were some basic elements of equity and fairness."

He added: "The fact of the matter is that nobody can say with any certainty just how many jobs this measure will foster in the southern coalfields of my State. But it is a fact that more jobs in this region will be an outgrowth of what we do today."

The bill passed the House by a vote of 401 to 25.

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