



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAHALL FISH HATCHERY PASSED BY CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- "Now it's up to the President," said a jubilant U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) after his legislation to build a trout hatchery in McDowell County was passed by the full Congress.

If the President signs it, \$2.5 million would be authorized for the necessary studies and construction costs to build the proposed McDowell County project. The hatchery will be undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in consultation with the State of West Virginia.

Rahall and West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton formulated the plan to construct a new federal trout hatchery in southern West Virginia to address the dual fold problem of inadequate hatchery capacity to meet demand, and existing hatcheries being too distant from many southern West Virginia lakes and streams.

"This would be the first hatchery in the country that would depend on water from an old coal mine," said Rahall. "In a sense, we are developing a new industry by finding innovative ways to use our abandoned coal mines, like a trout hatchery."

Rahall had remained committed to seeing the hatchery included in this year's work, tacking it on to five separate measures to insure passage.

"Let it suffice as to say that I was deeply committed to seeing this project become a reality," said Rahall.

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