



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 14, 1991

CONTACT: STEVE SPINA

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL'S ASSESSMENT MIXED ON PRESIDENT'S TRANSPORTATION POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today had mixed reviews for the President's transportation policy which was unveiled yesterday evening. Although he applauded the President's desire to make transportation a major factor in this year's budget, he was uncomfortable with the possibility of a lower federal matching share.

"The Administration is proposing to go as low as 60/40 in federal/local funding. This is unacceptable," said Rahall. "A 60 percent match by the federal government puts too much burden on already financially strapped states.

In West Virginia, when you build roads, you're not just paving your way through a desert. We're talking about blowing through a mountain. It's going to take a bigger match than that to blow through the mountains of West Virginia."

Rahall emphasized that the size of the Highway Trust Fund makes it possible for the matching share to be increased.

"The Trust Fund has money to spend. With the new taxes the President's budget agreement called for, the Fund is going to grow even more," said Rahall.

Rahall concluded, "Energy impacted roads is a concept that I introduced to the 1982 federal highway bill and will be pushing for again this time around," said Rahall. "With the new clean air proposals, southern West Virginia's low-sulfur coal is going to be in tremendous demand. Our roads are going to take even more punishment in the coming years, and they deserve the funds to keep them working."

--30--