



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAHALL INTRODUCES CLEAN WATER MEASURE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that he has introduced legislation to protect the quality of water in West Virginia and called on all West Virginians to demand nothing less than the highest quality water.

"I have introduced legislation that would reauthorize the Waste Treatment Construction Grant Program, which was phased out in 1990 and replaced by the so called state revolving loan fund," said Rahall.

Rahall explained that under the previous system states were able to apply for grants through the Waste Treatment Construction Grant program, but the Reagan Administration supported the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRFS). That effectively put more of the burden for clean water on the states by making them pay back the money, while at the same time providing them with less funding.

"The SRFS boils down to the same old thing, the federal government making states pick up the tab for more basic services," said Rahall. "My bill seeks to return the law to its original form, so our local communities can afford the clean, safe water they deserve."

Rahall quoted an EPA National Needs Survey of 1988 which charged that, as a nation, we have yet to full attain even minimum national objectives for health based sewage treatment. The survey reports over \$26 billion in unmet construction needs for secondary treatment and attainment of state water quality standards for conventional pollutants. Altogether, unmet needs for municipal water pollution control totals \$83.5 billion under the Clean Water Act's framework.

"I wish that we could take some of this polluted water over to the Administration so they could see the poor quality, then they might not be so quick to wash their hands of a national responsibility," said Rahall.

Listed as communities in violation of federal sewage laws:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| -- Ceredo, Kenova | -- Chattaroy |
| -- Logan | -- Iaeger |
| -- Oceana | -- Mullens |
| -- Bradshaw | -- War |
| -- Big Sandy | -- Montcalm |
| -- Elkhorn | -- Sophia |
| -- Pineville | -- Welch |

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