



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: STEVE SPINA

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL, CAPERTON MAKE PITCH FOR WEST VIRGINIA ROADS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) and West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton today made their case for increased federal commitment to West Virginia roads, by calling on the Surface Transportation subcommittee to include the 2,200 miles the State requested from the U.S. Department of Transportation in the proposed National Highway System. The Chairman of the Surface Transportation subcommittee is Rep. Norman Mineta (D-CA) who, last September, toured southern West Virginia's roads with Rep. Rahall.

"We strongly feel that the Administration's criteria should be expanded to allow mileage for service to the areas of our State involved in energy extraction," said Caperton, whose testimony was presented to the subcommittee by Rep. Rahall.

Rahall wrote the amendment to the 1983 highway bill that sought a higher matching share for energy impacted roads, and is pursuing the concept in this year's highway bill.

"It is easier to move coal from its seam beneath the earth than it is to move it over our deteriorating roadways," stressed Rahall. "Today, we have an opportunity to correct this unbelievable fact."

Rahall strongly endorsed the road proposals in southern West Virginia, including the TOLSIA/East-West Common Ground Corridor and Shawnee Parkway, the Coalfields Expressway, and the Point Pleasant to Huntington and its companion highway.

"Mr. Chairman, you joined me last year to tour the most necessary projects in my district. The State of West Virginia has committed millions of dollars for study and design on these projects. It is my belief these projects should be included and my efforts will be to include these important projects in the National Highway System," exhorted Rahall.

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