

U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 14, 1992

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RAHALL CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT TO, "PROTECT THE AMERICA WORKER"

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Calling it an effort to protect the American worker, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that he has co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 246, which directs the President to negotiate trade agreements only if the integrity of current American health, safety, labor, and environmental laws can be upheld.

"Any trade agreement we negotiate should be on our own terms," said Rahall. "American workers should not have to see over a hundred years of struggle to become the finest and best paid workforce in the world thrown out the window for a few extra bucks."

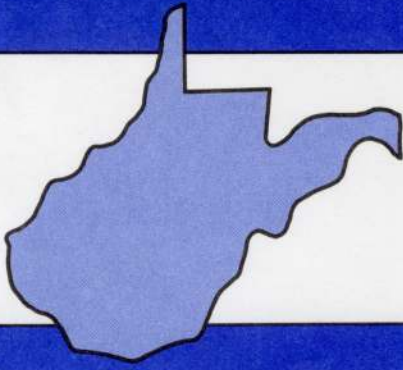
Rahall said that while the President negotiates two precedent setting international trade agreements, American laws are being thrown by the wayside. Preemptions of existing laws have already taken place, such as the August 1991 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) tuna-dolphin panel decision which said that a U.S. environmental law was a barrier. That GATT ruling was in direct conflict with the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

The resolution is supported by numerous labor, environmental, and consumer groups including: The Sierra Club, The United Mine Workers, The Communication Workers of America, and the National Consumers League as well as the Child Labor Coalition and the League of Rural Voters.

H. Con. Res. 246 is currently pending before Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee. It has 171 co-sponsors.

"The sad truth is, if you want to conduct business with countries like Mexico, you better be prepared for a business climate as scorching as their desert sands," said Rahall. "Our workers deserve protection from the heat."

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