



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RAHALL INTRODUCES BOLD, NEW WASTEWATER MEASURE  
-- BILL WOULD HELP CORPS OF ENGINEERS BUILD WASTEWATER FACILITIES --**

OAK HILL, WV -- Using the celebration of the Oak Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility's completion as a backdrop, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today unveiled his legislation to provide relief to struggling small communities desperate for funds to build wastewater facilities.

"Unclean water threatens our children's growth, our workforce's ability to produce, and our state's ability to attract new business," said Rahall. "In an effort to provide some relief to rural communities like ours, I have introduced The Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Act. This legislation would take specific steps designed to assist our economically distressed areas."

Rahall's legislation would authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to assist eligible local governments in the planning, design and construction of wastewater treatment works, public water systems or solid waste facilities.

In order to be eligible, communities would have to have a population of less than 25,000 and would have to be classified as a labor surplus area or they would have to have a per capita income that is less than or equal to 70 percent of the national per capita income.

The local share of such projects would be ten percent of the project cost which could include provision of necessary land, easements, and right of way. The bill would also authorize for the Corps an additional \$500 million a year to carry out activities under the act.

"Make no mistake about it," cautioned Rahall. "This is sound and fair legislation. Our smallest communities have been pushed aside long enough. We have seen too many regulations heaped upon the back of rural America with no financial relief in sight. This bill provides relief."

Rep. Rahall is a senior member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee and a member of the Water Resources Subcommittee.

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