



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 23, 1992

CONTACT: JIM ZOIA  
(202) 226-7761

**TROUT HATCHERY FUNDING APPROVED BY HOUSE  
WHILE NEW RIVER BILL CLEARS FIRST HURDLE**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- The U.S. House of Representatives has approved \$900,000 in design and construction funding for a new federal fish hatchery in Southern West Virginia. Meanwhile, also this week, a House panel passed a Rahall measure to require a Wild and Scenic Rivers Act eligibility determination on the segment of the New River that lies South of Bluestone Lake.

The hatchery, to be located in McDowell County, is intended to serve the growing demand for additional trout stockings in southern West Virginia lakes and streams. Rahall and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has been concerned that there is inadequate hatchery capacity at existing facilities to meet the needs of local sportsmen.

The funding was approved by the House Wednesday evening as part of the fiscal year 1993 Interior Appropriation bill which now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

Rahall's New River bill was approved by the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands Thursday morning; an action that follows close on the heels of a June 30th hearing during which testimony was taken from State Delegate Mary Pearl Compton of Union who represents Monroe and Summers Counties in the West Virginia House of Delegates, Jim McNeely of Bluefield and Robert Zacher of Lindside.

One of the goals of the bill, Rahall said, is to preserve the New River for the enjoyment of West Virginians. "We hunt these woods, we fish these waters, we boat this river and simply put, we want to keep the New River like it is," Rahall stated.

During the Subcommittee's consideration of the bill, at the request of U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA), Rahall offered an amendment to incorporate a segment of the New River in Virginia into the wild and scenic river study proposed by the bill. With the adoption of the amendment, the study would be done on a 19.5 mile segment of the New River starting at the U.S. Route 460 bridge in Glen Lyn, Virginia, to the Bluestone Lake in West Virginia.

The bill will be considered by the full Interior Committee in the near future.

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