



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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**RAHALL URGES ROAD BUILDERS TO RALLY THE TROOPS
- CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ENACT FURTHER PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS --**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today urged a group of road builders to continue their efforts to enact more public works projects in an effort to stimulate the economy and pull the country out of recession.

"The highway bill represents the only real jobs bill that the President has signed, and it is a piece of legislation that I take great pride in and so do my colleagues," said Rahall to a legislative luncheon of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA). "But it is only a starting point -- much more needs to be done."

Rahall called the highway bill, "a \$151 billion springboard from which we must launch an even more ambitious public works projects effort," and urged state governments to spend funds already given them by the federal government.

Rahall said that nationally, "only 38 percent of the money given to the states for 1992 has been obligated -- a mere \$5.7 billion," and that "\$16 billion lays in waiting, crying out to be spent in 1992."

The Congressman said that there are currently two other major public works type efforts pending before Congress that he would like to see enacted. One is a \$10 billion recession-busting bill.

"This piece of legislation would infuse the economy with \$10 billion in quick cash by giving 100 percent federal funding to any local community that could have a project up and running in 90 days.

"The key to this legislation is the time restraint. By forcing communities to have the project ready in 90 days, you ensure that the money will be spent promptly, that those dollars will flood the economy now," said Rahall.

The other piece of legislation is a \$7.3 billion jobs bill being offered by Congressman Jamie Whitten (D-MS), the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. That bill would dedicate \$1.45 billion for transportation projects. Both bills would be funded through cuts to defense and foreign aid budgets.

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