

**CONGRESSMAN BOUCHER INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO STOP EPA FROM ISSUING REGULATIONS HARMFUL TO APPALACHIAN MINING OPERATIONS**

□

***Legislation Would Prevent EPA from Issuing Regulations on Appalachian Mining Permits without Regular Rulemaking Process***

□

□□□□□□□□□□(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Representative Rick Boucher today introduced legislation to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from issuing harmful regulations on Appalachian mining permits. Boucher joined his colleagues Hal Rogers (R-KY) and Nick Rahall (D-WV) in introduction of the legislation.

**“In Southwest Virginia’s coal producing region, mining is the cornerstone of our economy. The coal industry creates some of the highest paying jobs in the local economy, and the products and services purchased in the course of mining operations create thousands of additional jobs in support industries. For these reasons, it is critical that any regulation on coal mining operations balances environmental concerns with the economic benefits the coal industry provides.**

□

□□□□□□□□□□“The proposed regulations put forth by the EPA in April fail to achieve this goal and will harm Appalachian mining operations. Our legislation will prevent the EPA



□

□□□□□□□□□□**“It is essential to the promotion of Southwest Virginia’s economy that surface coal mining operations continue. For that reason, I have consistently fought regulations which fail to strike the necessary balance between environmental protection and economic practicality,”** Boucher concluded.

-###-