

THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC  
TRANSIT**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2002*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit a statement made by Mrs. Faye Thompson of Wayne County, West Virginia before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, on the importance of public transit. Mrs. Thompson is a member of the Wayne County, West Virginia Community Service Organization, Inc. Board of Directors.

Public transit is a vital transportation link for people in rural areas, who do not own their own cars, or cannot find someone to drive them to medical appointments, etc.

In her testimony, Mrs. Thompson told how she went to work as a social worker for the Department of Health and Human Services after her three sons became old enough to go to school. Mrs. Thompson worked with low-income families and said that "one of the biggest obstacles of obtaining services was the lack of transportation." During those years, Wayne County had no public transportation.

At the time, Mrs. Thompson had her own car, and was able to drive anywhere she wanted to go, at any time.

Later in life, Mrs. Thompson's husband passed away. Then she was told she needed to have both knees replaced. Her two older sons live out of state, and her youngest son worked full-time, and was unable to drive her to physical therapy sessions.

Suddenly, Mrs. Thompson realized she was no longer independent and that she was now one of the people who need public transportation. But unlike the earlier years, when she worked to help low-income families who had no access to public transportation, Wayne County now offered public transportation.

As Mrs. Thompson said, "Thanks to public transportation, I was able to obtain the medical services that I needed."

Mrs. Thompson was able to look at how tough it was, years ago, for low-income families in Wayne County to be without public transit, and look at how much easier it was for her, while in rehabilitation, to receive physical therapy because she could rely on public transit.

Mrs. Thompson noted that "Wayne X-Press Public Transit System in Wayne, West Virginia provides transportation services to people for medical appointments, to jobs, job interviews, job training, social activities, senior citizen centers, Adult Day treatment programs, general education training, parenting classes, etc."

She described public transit as "the lifeline for the public."

As a Member of Congress representing the Third Congressional District of West Virginia, I have been working to help low-income, rural West Virginians to enhance their quality of life by providing transportation to medical care, educational facilities and jobs.

Public transit helps to create and build jobs, which is a boost to the economy. We must maintain and expand public transit programs. When we reauthorize the surface transportation legislation in the 108th Congress, I will

work to continue to strengthen and expand public transit programs, to ensure "the lifeline for the public" continues.

FORT GAY, WEST VIRGINIA

*July 16, 2002*

UNITED STATES SENATE,

*Banking, Housing, and Urban Development,  
Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation,  
Washington, DC.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: It is an honor to be with you here today to talk about something that is dear to my heart. First, let me tell you something about myself. My late husband and I raised three sons, and that was an experience in itself. After my children got into school, my husband who was employed by the Norfolk and Western Railroad went to work and I started back to school to become an elementary school teacher in a one room schoolhouse in rural Appalachia, West Virginia.

I saw the many challenges of the rural Appalachian people, so I changed careers and became a Social Worker for the Department of Health and Human Resources in rural West Virginia. Throughout my career, I worked with low income families and one of the biggest obstacles of obtaining services was the lack of transportation. At that time there was no public transportation in Wayne County. Throughout my twenty-two years in my career there was always a need for individuals to access, services. Throughout my life I have been a very independent person as you can see, raising a family, starting not just one career but two in my life, and having the privilege of having my own transportation. Most of us take for granted picking up our car keys, going out of the house, and going anywhere we want to go.

Even though I have always recognized the need for rural transportation. I never thought that it would be something that I would need. After my husband passed away, I lived alone in my home. I then downsized to an apartment. I was still able to go to my homemaker meetings, church activities, Board Member meetings, volunteer work, and continued to meet my friends for lunch and social activities. My physician informed me that I was going to have to have both of my knees replaced. He stated that after my surgery and rehabilitation that I would need to go to physical therapy three times a week for several weeks. My two eldest sons both live out of state and my youngest son works full-time, therefore was unable to take me to my therapy sessions. I then realized that I was one of the people who needed transportation. I was no longer independent and this was quite a shock to me. Thanks to Public Transportation I was able to obtain the medical services that I needed.

Being a member of Wayne County Community Service Organization, Inc. Board of Directors, I can sit here today in front of you and let you know how important the Public Transit System is to the people. How it enables them to access needed services. Wayne X-Press Public Transit System in Wayne, West Virginia provides transportation services to people for medical appointments, to jobs, job interviews, job training, social activities, senior citizen centers, Adult Day treatment programs, general education training, parenting classes, etc. I'm here today to ask you distinguished ladies and gentlemen to continue funding for Public Transit Systems. Why, because it is the lifeline for the public. So I invite all of you to Wayne County, West Virginia to "hop aboard" the Wayne X-Press.

FAYE THOMPSON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 17, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Capps amendment to prohibit the use of funds for new oil drilling on 36 leases off the coast of California.

Oil spills would devastate the sensitive marine environment of California's coast. The Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969 dumped over four million gallons of oil into the sea, killed thousands of animals, blackened beaches and decimated the local marine environment. The coast took years to recover.

California's economy depends upon the health of its coasts. Tourism brings in nearly \$30 billion a year to our state, and the fishing industry is also important to our economy. California cannot afford the risks of offshore oil drilling.

The people of California are strongly opposed to offshore oil drilling. Leases off the coasts of Florida, Alaska and North Carolina have already been terminated. It is time to terminate the California leases as well and respect the will of California's people.

I urge my colleagues to support the Capps amendment.

ARGENTINA MUST TAKE ACTION  
AGAINST TERRORISTS WHO  
CARRIED OUT THE 1994 AMIA BOMBING**TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, eight years ago today—on July 18, 1994, a car bomb exploded at the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, leaving eighty-five people dead and leveling the building. Now, eight years later, the trial of a handful of suspected accessories to the crime has only barely begun, and the masterminds behind the horrific attack are still unidentified and at-large.

While we recognize that Argentina is currently struggling with serious political and economic crises, the government of President Duhalde must remain focused on the investigation of the AMIA bombing and the trial of the accused. The resolution of this case is critical to demonstrate that Argentine society fully embraces the rule of law and is moving toward the fulfillment of justice. The AMIA case presents Argentina with the opportunity to send a message to the world that terrorism does not pay and that known terrorists will be prosecuted.

Mr. Speaker, the trial has been long in coming and has faced many obstacles, some of which Fernando de la Rúa and current President Eduardo Duhalde have addressed. There