

**THE HONORABLE NICK J. RAHALL, II  
RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**OPENING STATEMENT  
January 23, 2013**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin by congratulating you on being elected as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I look forward to working with you and all of the Members of the Committee on the critical agenda before us. Together, we have a great opportunity to rebuild America, not only to address our critical infrastructure needs but also to create family-wage construction jobs, and increase our global competitiveness.

We are faced not only with an opportunity, but in my view, a pressing responsibility, to move forward on a variety of fronts, whether it be highway, transit, rail, port, levee, inland waterway, wastewater, or airport infrastructure. The question is, whether or not we will rise to this challenge. I sincerely hope we will.

Members of both parties fight to be on this Committee because they believe in infrastructure. Nevertheless, the pull of party politics is strong. It is often said that partisan differences on foreign policy stop “at the water’s edge”. Let us stand together – even against party leaderships if necessary – and let politics stop “at the Committee doors”.

That is the great bipartisan tradition of this Committee, and working together, we can rebuild America. Again, Mr. Chairman, congratulations. I would also like to extend congratulations to all of the new Members of the Committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.