WASHINGTON (June 22, 2009) - Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) announced he has obtained $350,000 in funds in a House bill to help the University of Alabama develop technology to improve the effectiveness of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

The project would allow the University of Alabama to research and develop miniature antennas that help control the flight of UAVs. The work, directed by Dr. Yang-Ki Hong of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is intended to address the unstable imaging problems that exist in unmanned aerial vehicles. UAVs generate surveillance data that have a significant impact on national security.

Congressman Bachus said, "The University of Alabama is a leader in research and development. Its expertise is especially well-suited for this project, which will improve the accuracy of the aerial vehicles used by law enforcement and our military. It was a pleasure to work with the university on this important initiative."

University of Alabama Vice President of Research Joe Benson said, "This project has the potential to significantly enhance the capability of UAVs to acquire and rapidly disseminate surveillance data. We are pleased to have the opportunity to direct the expertise of our faculty toward enhancement of national security and we applaud the efforts of Congressman Bachus to facilitate this initiative."

The project is included in the FY10 House Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill. Legislation must be passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the President before becoming law.