

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today called for an energy policy that unites Americans, pointing to innovative clean coal research being done in Shelby County.

Bachus toured the National Carbon Capture Center at the Power Systems Development Facility in Wilsonville this morning. The project is testing technologies to store carbon dioxide produced by coal plants as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Carbon capture is the wave of the future for advanced coal-fired plants. It's critical for Alabama and for our environment that we find more effective ways to use our abundant and relatively low-cost coal resources. We can be proud that this groundbreaking research is happening right here in our own backyard," Bachus said.

Following the tour, Bachus hosted an energy forum where he called for a balanced energy policy and repeated his concerns about the Waxman-Markey "cap and trade" bill that narrowly passed the House in June.

"What I call the 'cap and tax' approach is unfair to Alabama because it discriminates against our nuclear, coal, and hydropower. It will raise energy prices and therefore everyone's utility bills at a time when we can least afford it. We need to work together to find common solutions to reducing our dependence on foreign oil and cleaning up the environment. The answer is a balanced mix of nuclear, clean coal, our own domestic resources, renewable and alternative fuels, and conservation," Bachus said.

More than 125 people attended the forum at the Jefferson State Shelby Campus, which featured speakers who discussed how nuclear, clean coal, hydroelectric power, natural gas and propane can help address America's energy needs.

During the program, Bachus was presented with the 2009 Distinguished Service Award by Electric Cities of Alabama for his leadership on energy issues.

