

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) and Congressman Mike Rogers (AL-7) announced that Auburn University will receive \$3.5 million for defense research work under the House version of the FY08 Defense Appropriations bill.

The university will use the funds for its logistical fuel processor program, which examines the use of fuel cells as a power source for military equipment. The sophisticated communications, electronics, and related equipment now being used in combat situations depend on reliable power supplies. The program's goal is to help the army take commonly available diesel or jet fuels and use them in fuel cell systems that are smaller, lighter, less costly, and more energy-efficient than traditional combustion engines.

Congressman Bachus said, "This technology, although developed for the military, could have widespread civilian application. Domestically, such technology could ultimately lead to cleaner-burning, fuel efficient automobiles and trucks while at the same time reducing our dependence on foreign oil."

Congressman Rogers said, "Auburn's fuel cell research is critical for helping address our military's growing energy needs and, over the long term, could help our nation become less reliant on foreign sources of oil," said Congressman Rogers, a member of the Armed Services Committee. "While we still have several steps to go in the legislative process and things could change, I am hopeful this important funding continues to receive strong support in Congress."

The Director of Public Communications for Auburn University, Brian Keeter, said, "Innovations in fuel technology enhance the capabilities of the U.S. Army, and we appreciate the support Congressman Bachus and Rogers provide to one of Auburn University's top research programs."

The defense measure is scheduled to come to the House floor for a vote on Friday. Appropriations bills need the approval of the House and Senate and the President's signature before becoming law.

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