

BIRMINGHAM – Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-AL) said he will seek disaster assistance for farmers in Chilton County following a weekend freeze that is believed to have caused significant damage to the peach crop.

Bachus has written to Governor Bob Riley asking the state to request a disaster declaration from the federal government. If granted, the designation would make farmers eligible for special federal assistance.

A detailed assessment of crop loss will have to be prepared for the federal government. The peach crop in Chilton County is valued at \$3-4 million, and the economic impact of the crop on the county is believed to be in the range of \$30 million.

“Farmers and the Chilton County economy rely heavily on the success of the peach crop. The freezing weather over the weekend appears to have caused heavy damage to the crop, and our farmers will need help to make it through the year,” Bachus said.

Bachus said his office started background work on a disaster request late last week when adverse weather was forecast for the weekend. He was also in contact with the Governor’s office

and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“This is very unfortunate for Chilton County, which is the peach capital of Alabama. But we’re working to help the farmers, and I am confident that the county will be able to bounce back from this,” Bachus said.