

WASHINGTON – The House of Representatives late last night passed the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement by a 217 - 215 vote. Congressman Spencer Bachus issued the following statement regarding its passage:

“I am pleased CAFTA passed the House and was proud to cast my vote in its favor. This vital agreement will increase jobs in Alabama and raise the competitiveness of the United States. It will bring stability and opportunity to the Central American region, thus promoting national security and discouraging immigration. Our state and our country will be better off once CAFTA takes effect,” Congressman Bachus said.

“My thanks go to Trade Representative Rob Portman and House Leadership for their hard work in negotiating side agreements that made CAFTA a more secure deal for textile manufactures and cotton

farmers. These agreements brought a number of Members aboard, including myself. They have been endorsed by the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Cotton Council and Alabama Farmers' Federation," Bachus continued.

"We will now turn our efforts toward passing legislation to ensure the agreements are enforceable. Leadership has assured me this will be promptly addressed, and I look forward to continuing the work in this effort," Bachus concluded.

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