

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus is pleased to announce that he has secured a \$250,000 appropriation for the Birmingham Zoo in the 2005 Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill passed by the House Appropriations Committee yesterday afternoon.

The appropriation secured by Congressman Bachus will go to expand and modernize facilities at the Zoo.

"I have long been dedicated to conserving those places in Alabama that offer opportunities for education and understanding of nature and the outdoors. The Cahaba River Refuge, the Ebenezer Swamp in Montevallo, and the Birmingham Zoo are some of those places. Great things are happening at the Birmingham Zoo, and this appropriation acknowledges the progress we've witnessed under Dr. William Foster and Mr. Colin Luke," said Bachus.

"This is fantastic for the state of Alabama! Congressman Bachus is a great friend of this community and we are fortunate to have him in Washington.

The Birmingham Zoo is an important community asset that is moving forward with great momentum since becoming an independent not-for-profit organization five years ago.

We have made many improvements, opened the first half of a new Children's Zoo, and become a destination for families from this community, for school outings, and for tourists from throughout the state and surrounding states.

We will be able to continue to enhance the Zoo with the leadership and generous investments such as this from of Congressman Spencer Bachus," said Colin H. Luke, President of the Birmingham Zoo, Inc. Board of Directors.

Dr. William R. Foster, Chief Executive Officer of the Birmingham Zoo, said, "Congressman Bachus recognizes that the most successful and valuable resources in any state, including Alabama, are supported by a partnership of public and private investment. Our Birmingham Zoo, the largest zoological park in the state, has many needs on this, the eve of its 50th birthday.

This investment will help us accelerate our plans for continued improvement of facilities and programs. The staff and I are very excited about this wonderful gift."

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