

WASHINGTON- The Tornado Shelters Act, authored by Congressman Spencer Bachus, has gone to President Bush today for his approval. This important legislation allows local governments to use Community Development Block Grant funds to construct storm shelters in manufactured housing communities.

“Today, the technology is there to give early and normally ample warning to our citizens when a powerful tornado approaches. What is missing for many of our citizens is a safe shelter from that storm”, said Congressman Bachus. “When a tornado strikes, all of us are at risk. Unless you have a basement or an interior safe room in your home, you need a storm shelter. This legislation will allow cities and counties to use the Community Development Block Grant funds they receive to build storm shelters to protect their citizens.”

Federal programs exist that help communities and individuals build storm shelters or safe rooms for site-built homes, apartment buildings and schools. However, the programs do not include manufactured

housing communities.

“As we have seen this week in Tuscaloosa, tornados can strike at any time during severe weather warnings. I want all of our citizens to be able to benefit from this program.

We need to level the playing field so manufactured housing communities qualify, just as others do. Manufactured housing communities and residents should not be excluded”, Bachus said.

The Tornado Shelters Act passed the United States Senate yesterday after passing the United States House of Representatives in July.