

WASHINGTON-Congressman Spencer Bachus announced that Democrats and Republicans on the Financial Services Committee reached an agreement today to schedule his Tornado Shelter Bill for committee approval next Wednesday.

This legislation allows local governments to use Community Development Block Grant funds to construct storm shelters in mobile home communities.

“Today, the technology is there to give early and normally ample warning to our citizens when a powerful tornado approaches. What is missing is for many of our citizens is a safe shelter from that storm”, said 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.”

There are existing federal programs 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 mobile home communities.

“As we have sadly seen, tornadoes do not make such distinctions. I want all our citizens to be able to benefit from this program. There are more than 750,000 Alabamians living in mobile homes today. That’s one-sixth of our population. We need to level the playing field so mobile home communities qualify, just as others do. Mobile home communities and residents should not be excluded”, Bachus said.