

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 25— U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) today voted in support of the Phone Tax Repeal Act, which eliminates the three percent tax levied on the phone bill of every American with telephone service.

"Repealing this tax will lower phone bills and save the average American family up to \$50 a year. That may not sound like much, but anytime Washington votes to repeal a tax, it's a huge triumph," said Bachus, a co-sponsor of the tax repeal bill.

The tax was imposed in 1898 as a "temporary luxury tax" to help fund the Spanish-American War.

"That war ended on August 12, 1898, yet the tax remains. It's hard to believe that a 'temporary' tax could last 102 years, but it just goes to prove that there's no such thing as a 'temporary' tax – until today," said Bachus. "The tax is not only outdated and without purpose, it is also drastically regressive and hinders efforts to keep Internet access tax-free. By repealing it, we'll give all consumers a break."