

**WASHINGTON** -- A provision sought by U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and several others in Congress to encourage the NATO allies to reimburse the United States for some of the costs of the Kosovo mission will be included in legislation the House will consider next week.

Last week, Bachus was part of a bipartisan group of House members who wrote Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young (R-FL) asking that such a provision be added to the emergency spending bill to pay for the Kosovo operation.

"NATO is an alliance of 19 countries and the burdens of this NATO mission should be spread out more equally," Bachus said. "We are supplying the overwhelming number of forces involved and it's putting a strain on our ability to defend our vital interests around the globe. It's only right to expect our NATO allies to shoulder a greater share of the load. We must demand they pay their fair share."

The provision that has been included in the appropriations bill requires President Clinton to seek reimbursement from NATO countries and report to Congress by September 30 on the amount of reimbursements received. In the case of a NATO country that refused to provide or promise to make reimbursements, the President will report on the reasons why.

The House Appropriations Committee will vote on the measure this Thursday and the House is expected to vote on the bill either Wednesday or Thursday next week.