

WASHINGTON (May 27) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today said federal bureaucrats should not frustrate potential oil spill cleanup efforts in Gulf Coast states in by snarling them in endless red tape.

In a letter to President Obama, Bachus said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Administration are delaying actions being taken on the state level that could help protect citizens and natural resources from the spreading spill.

“States along the Gulf Coast, including my home state of Alabama, need maximum flexibility to respond to the environmental and economic damage being caused by the oil spill. They should not be kept waiting for days and even weeks for decisions to be made by distant federal bureaucrats. Alabama is rightly known for its rapid response to disaster situations. No state should be forced to experience what the citizens of Louisiana have endured, where an elected Governor has been restrained from responding in a timely manner to a disaster significantly affecting their environment and economy,” Bachus.

The State of Louisiana has had to battle with the Army Corps over the construction of emergency barrier islands to protect sensitive marshes and wetlands. Bachus said he does not want other response efforts to face similar lengthy delays.

Bachus has also called for reform of the federal agency responsible for oversight of the offshore drilling industry and is a leading cosponsor of legislation (*The Minerals Management Service Reform Act*) to create a more effective watchdog.

To view the letter, [click here.](#) _

To see the responsibilities of the Administration under the National Contingency Plan, [click here](#) .

