

WASHINGTON (July 14) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) said two Birmingham residents who travelled across historic Route 66 in a classic car fueled by natural gas have demonstrated the potential of alternative energy to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

Bachus today welcomed one of the drivers, Mark McConville, to the U.S. Capitol and drove the retrofitted 1966 Pontiac GTO around the grounds to showcase the car and trip.

“Mark McConville and Keith Barfield left a lasting impression all along Route 66 with their car and their message about alternative fuels. It’s fascinating to see how an old ‘muscle car’ can be converted into a clean-burning, low emissions vehicle. This shows that we can solve our energy challenges using American technology and ingenuity. It brought great publicity to Alabama here at the Capitol and the only other thing we needed driving it around was an eight-track tape of Little GTO,” said Congressman Bachus.

McConville and Barfield drove the 2,460 mile length of Route 66 from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois using compressed natural gas (CNG) as their fuel. The trip took about ten days and received widespread media coverage.

“We wanted to bring awareness about natural gas as a fuel and show there needs to be more refueling infrastructure in our country. Natural gas works as a fuel and the fact that we did it with an old car shows it’s relatively easy to convert,” McConville said.

Bachus intervened to have the car displayed along the reflecting pool at the west front of the Capitol, where it attracted attention from reporters and tourists all day.

Congressman Bachus is a supporter of clean fuels and has promoted the development of the I-65 Clean Corridor in Alabama to lessen oil dependence and reduce pollution.