

WASHINGTON (September 8) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) said federal regulatory burdens being imposed on employers in the Sixth District are concrete examples of the challenges facing businesses that want to create jobs to help improve the economy.

Employers representing cement plants in St. Clair County and Jefferson County have been in Washington today discussing obstacles that federal regulations are posing to job creation as President Obama prepares to deliver an economic speech to Congress. The President of National Cement in Ragland, Spencer Weitman, said conflicting federal regulations are delaying a proposed \$350 million kiln project at his plant. The President and CEO of Lehigh Hanson, Dan Harrington, testified at a House hearing on the financial impact that pending environmental regulations will have on the cement industry. Lehigh Hanson has a cement plant in Leeds.

“The frustration that our local cement plant companies are experiencing in their dealings with the bureaucracy is shared by many companies who wish the federal government would just let them get down to the business of creating jobs. We need to keep our good-paying manufacturing jobs. Washington should end the uncertainty for employers caused by its maze of regulations and instead create a climate that encourages investment,” said Bachus.

Congressman Bachus has brought National Cement’s regulatory concerns to the direct attention of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson. The company has had to suspend plans for a new kiln project that would create about 1,500 construction jobs and a number of permanent new jobs.

Bachus visited Lehigh Hanson’s cement plant in Leeds in February and was told that costly new regulations are threatening to divert money away from needed investment and job creation.

“We need common sense regulations that keep our manufacturers competitive and protect the environment at the same time. We can’t afford to lose good manufacturing jobs to Mexico and other countries,” Bachus said.

After a day of meetings on Capitol Hill, Weitman of National Cement and other job creators will attend President Obama's jobs address in the House chamber tonight. He is an invited guest of Speaker Boehner and Congressman Bachus.