

# ELECTRIC CITIES *Connected*



## Electric Cities of Alabama Partner Together



Power lines destroyed in the City of Athens

ECA members partnered together last month to restore power to several member utilities across north Alabama that were affected by the April 27 tornado crisis. ECA commends the cities of Albertville, Andalusia, Decatur, Dothan, Fairhope, Foley, Fort Payne, Hartselle, Muscle Shoals, Opelika, Russellville, Scottsboro, Sheffield, Troy, Tuscumbia and Tuskegee for responding to a call for assistance from fellow electric cities members in north Alabama. The violent tornadoes and thunderstorms tore through several counties across the state leaving at least one million Alabama homes and businesses without electricity.

These 16 electric cities, along with the states of Florida, Georgia, Indiana and Tennessee, were quick to respond by sending line crews to ECA's

member utilities affected by the devastating storms.

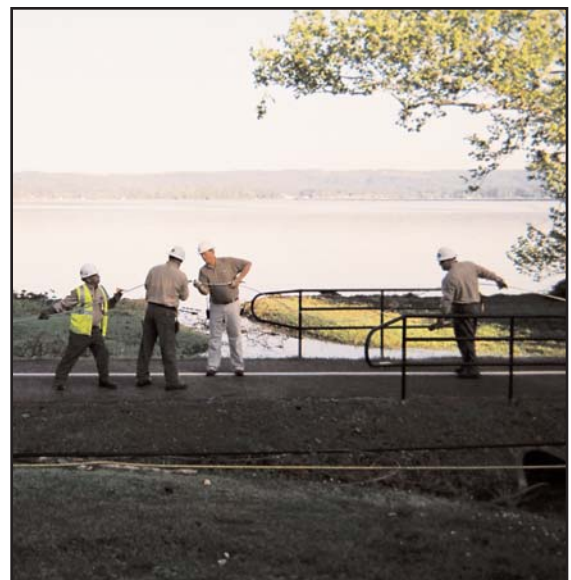
Jonathan Hand, ECA's executive director, coordinated power restoration assistance to electric cities members after the storms swept through north Alabama. "Sending crews to lend a helping hand to our fellow electric cities is part of who we are," Hand said. "When a disaster occurs such as the tornadoes on April 27, ECA members help each other get back on their feet. This association has a long tradition of working together to ensure our members recover from storms in a timely and safe manner." Hand went on to say, "These cities and statewide associations should be commended for giving their time and expertise to communities in need."

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Tornado destruction in the City of Cullman



Line crews from Fairhope Public Utilities assist the City of Guntersville

# Congressional Member Spotlight: Spencer Bachus



**Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-R, 6th)**

*Electric Cities of Alabama will feature a monthly spotlight on Alabama's Congressional Delegation to help its members learn more about the Alabama Congressional Members and their views on legislation. This month's spotlight is Congressman Spencer Bachus.*

Congressman Spencer Bachus was re-elected by the sixth congressional district to serve his tenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the 112th congress, Bachus serves as Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, which holds jurisdiction over the banking, securities, insurance, housing, and domestic and international monetary policy sectors.

Bachus earlier served in the State Senate where, prior to his election in 1982, no Republican had served in the body since Reconstruction. He was the first Republican ever elected to the State School Board.

In the Alabama State Senate, Congressman Bachus received the

Legislator of the Year Award from the Department of Human Resources. He was also the author of state domestic abuse statutes and wrote the first law in Alabama that penalizes repeat DUI offenders.

In the U.S. House, Congressman Bachus serves as a conservative who supports tax relief, fiscal responsibility, a strong national defense and traditional values. He has been named Guardian of Small Business by the National Federation of Independent Business, Friend of the Taxpayer by Americans for Tax Reform, Friend of the Family by the Christian Coalition and has received the Spirit of Free Enterprise Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Congressman Bachus helped rewrite the federal funding formula on how gas tax dollars are distributed to the states. Alabama now receives an average of \$200 million more per year in federal transportation funds for projects like Corridor X and the Northern Beltline. On health care, Bachus stopped a Clinton administration plan that would have cut Medicaid payments to Alabama by \$300 million a year and wrote a law permitting Medicare coverage for prostate cancer screenings.

Congressman Bachus authored the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act, which contains powerful identity theft protections and entitles consumers to a free copy of their credit report.

Other major bills include deposit insurance reform, which increased FDIC coverage levels for account holders; regulatory relief legislation

that will help eliminate unnecessary and duplicative paperwork costs placed on banks and credit unions; and Check 21, which modernized the check clearing process. The long campaign of Congressman Bachus to ban illegal internet gambling culminated in October 2006 when President Bush signed a law barring the use of credit cards and financial instruments on gambling websites.

A native of Birmingham, Congressman Bachus graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama School of Law. He and his wife Linda live in Vestavia Hills and are the parents of five children. Prior to his public service career, Congressman Bachus was a practicing attorney.

## **What do you feel is the greatest obstacle in the new Congress?**

The biggest issue facing Congress is the need to cut spending and reduce the national debt, which now stands at a record level of more than \$14 trillion. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has stated, "Unless we as a nation make a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility, we will have neither financial stability nor healthy economic growth." The Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, stated in a CNN interview that the debt is "the most significant threat to our national security." With just the interest we pay on our debt, China can afford to buy three new Joint Strike Fighters every week and still have \$50 million left over. The debt problem cannot be solved by cuts in discretionary

*continued on page 3*

## Congressional Member Spotlight: Bachus (Continued)

spending alone. Entitlement reform must be part of the answer as well.

### **Do you feel that cap-and-trade legislation has a future during this Congress?**

The last thing that families and businesses can afford is a national energy tax, which would be the result of what should properly be called “cap and tax” legislation. It would inevitably lead to even higher gasoline prices and make coal more expensive to use. Knowing that the House Republican majority will not pass “cap and tax,” the Environmental Protection Agency has initiated an attempt to impose greenhouse gas regulations by its own fiat. On April 7, I voted with a majority of my colleagues in the House to pass the Energy Tax Prevention Act, which would prohibit the EPA from unilaterally issuing regulations which would make gasoline, electricity, and other forms of energy much more expensive. It would be a costly blow that our weak economy is ill-equipped to absorb.

### **What has changed the most during your tenure in Congress?**

The public’s concern about excessive government spending has been the most pronounced change. The fed-

eral government has run trillion-dollar-plus deficits in each of the last three years and it has taken on massive debt liabilities as a result of the failed stimulus package, the new health care law, the bailouts, and new spending programs. No family can afford to live on borrowed money and borrowed time for long, and neither can the federal government. The American public stated very clearly in last November’s elections that they want an end to the runaway spending. They want the federal government to implement significant spending cuts and structural budget reforms so that the U.S. does not land in the same perilous financial condition that some of the countries in Europe find themselves in.

### **Do you feel domestic energy production will increase or decrease this Congress?**

It has long been my view that the U.S. needs a balanced energy policy to reduce our dependence on volatile imported oil. This involves the development of our ample domestic oil, natural gas, and coal resources as well as the growth of nuclear, solar, and wind power. Renewable fuels and conservation are also key components. Unfortunately, many regulations being issued by the

Administration are having the effect of discouraging the development of our own domestic resources, which both leaves the U.S. more vulnerable to imported oil from hostile regimes and costs our country the new jobs that exploration and production would generate. Our House Majority is addressing the issue with the American Energy Initiative, an ongoing effort focused on expanding U.S. energy production to lower costs and create jobs.

### **What would you like ECA Members to know about you?**

It has been my pleasure to work with Electric Cities of Alabama for many years, and it was a high honor to receive your Distinguished Service Award for 2009. Electric Cities of Alabama, and the communities you represent, have a reputation for being a trusted source of information on energy policy. Congress cannot make good laws unless it hears from those affected by those policies on a daily basis, so I always welcome hearing from you. It is a privilege to be able to represent the people of Alabama in the U.S. Congress, and I am there first and foremost to serve the needs of our people.



## ECA Trivia Grid

A \_\_\_\_\_ circuit only allows one path for current?

**Be the first to email the correct answer to Andrea Salvador at [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org) and win a \$25.00 gift card. Good Luck!**

*Last month’s winner was John Averrett from Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc. John answered “xfmr” to the following question: What is the most common abbreviation for the word “transformer”? Congratulations John!*

# Have You Registered Yet?



ECA's 11th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference  
July 10-12, 2011, Orange Beach, AL

ECA's 11th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference is right around the corner, have you registered yet? This annual meeting allows ECA member cities, along with key staff and elected officials, to gather and exchange ideas and experiences. To register with ECA, log on to our website [www.electriccities.org](http://www.electriccities.org) and complete the registration form available under the Upcoming Events section of the homepage. **The deadline to register with ECA is June 10.**

ECA has reserved a block of rooms at a discounted rate of

\$224.00 a night for meeting attendees. **The deadline to reserve a room in this block is June 3rd.** We encourage you to reserve your room as soon as possible to ensure you receive the discounted rate. You must make your hotel reservations directly with Perdido Beach Resort. Please use Electric Cities of Alabama's booking code 5072 when making your reservation by phone (800) 634-8001 or online at [www.perdidobeachresort.com](http://www.perdidobeachresort.com)

You will not want to miss out on this annual event, so register today!

## ECA's Blast from the Past



Dont forget to submit your favorite ECA Annual Meeting photos to share in the next newsletter to [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org). Here are just a few photos ECA dug up in our 2009 archives!

# Happenings on Goat Hill



May 5, 2011 - The Alabama Senate passes an illegal immigration bill in hopes that its members can work with the House to iron out the differences in the two proposals.

May 6, 2011 - The Alabama Senate narrowly passes Senator Trip Pittman's sponsored bill overhauling teacher tenure in the state.

May 24, 2011 - A committee of House and Senate members approve a compromise version of the state

education budget that cuts state teacher units by 1,125, which officials hope to increase as the economy improves and more revenue comes into the state.

May 24, 2011 - House members refuse to go along with the proposed education budget approved only hours prior in a committee meeting. House members thought the budget included provisions dealing with liability insurance for teachers, which is currently provided by the Alabama Education Association. A committee will meet again to try to address the differences.

May 25, 2011 - The Legislature passes a \$1.77 billion General Fund budget that heavily cuts many state agencies.

May 25, 2011 - After long debate with close votes on several amendments, the House of Representatives passes a bill overhauling the state's tenure process for teachers. The legislation passed 56-43, and now goes to Governor Robert Bentley for his signature.

May 26, 2011 - Representative Daniel Boman, a former Republican of Sulligent, switches to the Democratic party because of GOP policies he felt targeted teachers.

## Support the Fairness PAC!

**ECA will have a Fairness PAC drawing on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, during the Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference. Prizes will include a 2-day / 2-night stay at Ross Bridge Resort, an Apple iPad and a digital camera. Other prizes to be announced as the meeting draws near. Attendance is not required to win. Contact Andrea Salvador at [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org) to purchase your raffle ticket for \$10.**

*Fairness PAC is a non-profit corporation and political action committee committed to supporting the vitality, growth and development of public utilities. Fairness PAC is an independent, autonomous organization and is not a subsidiary or affiliate of any political party or other political organization. Fairness PAC is organized under and governed in accordance with the provisions of The Fair Campaign Practices Act, Section 17-22A-1, et.seq., Code of Alabama, (1975), as amended from time to time.*



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*Calendar*  
*2011*

**ECA**

THE ELECTRIC CITIES OF ALABAMA IS A COALITION OF THE STATE'S MUNICIPALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ELECTRIC SYSTEMS. ALABAMA'S ELECTRIC CITIES SERVE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION CONSUMERS IN 36 CITIES THROUGHOUT ALABAMA.

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**July 10, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.**  
Annual Business Meeting  
(Board of Directors)  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL

**July 10 - 12, 2011**  
Annual Meeting and  
Governmental Affairs  
Conference  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL

**October 19 - 21, 2011**  
Engineering & Operations  
Conference  
Ross Bridge Hotel & Spa  
Birmingham, AL

**October 21, 2011**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Ross Bridge Hotel & Spa  
Birmingham, AL

**ELECTRIC CITIES**  
*of Alabama*  
*presents*  
**The 11th Annual Meeting  
and Governmental  
Affairs Conference**  
July 10-12, 2011  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, Alabama

The deadline to register for the 11th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference is quickly approaching!

Book your room by **June 3** with The Perdido Beach Resort by calling (800) 634-8001 and using Electric Cities of Alabama's booking code 5072. You can also book online by logging on to [www.perdidobeachresort.com](http://www.perdidobeachresort.com) and using the same booking code number.

Register with ECA by **June 10** by logging on to [www.electriccities.org](http://www.electriccities.org) and completing the registration form.