

Ranking Member Bachus Statement on Madoff Ponzi Hearing

February 4, 2009

WASHINGTON - Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-AL), the top Financial Services Committee Republican, issued the following statement on today's Capital Markets Subcommittee Madoff Ponzi scheme hearing:

"Madoff perpetrated the largest financial scam in history, resulting in a loss of \$50 billion for non-profits, universities and pension funds and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. While honest Americans struggle to fill their gas tanks, meet rising home-heating costs, feed their families and pay their mortgages, Madoff is relaxing comfortably in his luxury Upper East Side home.

"The SEC was handed this case on a silver platter and failed to use resources at their disposal appropriately. This problem will not be solved by throwing more money at the agency. Our committee must ask the tough questions as to why the SEC failed to use their tools to protect innocent investors.

"The Madoff case reminds us that we must modernize our 1930's regulatory system to meet today's complex 21st century financial markets and provide more rigorous oversight. It is my hope that this hearing will be the beginning of our work towards that end. We cannot shirk our responsibilities."

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NOTE: Ranking Member Bachus' subcommittee remarks appeared on CNBC, Bloomberg, MSNBC, and CNN this morning.