

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2008

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the Kansas Delegation, we request that the Department of Defense suspend the KC-45 Tanker contract until Congress has an ability to fully review this controversial decision. As you know, the decision to award a \$35 billion contract to the Northrop Grumman (NG)-European Aeronautic Defence and Space (EADS) Team has brought wide-spread concern and opposition.

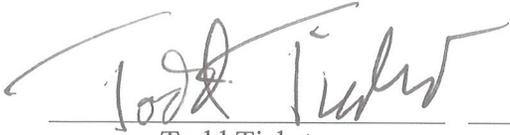
During a time of economic uncertainty, it is baffling why the Department would decide to send at least 19,000 jobs overseas. Under the Boeing Team proposal, the State of Kansas alone stood to gain 3,800 jobs and \$145 million annually. 300-500 of these jobs were to be at the Wichita KC-X Tanker finishing center. However, with the NG-EADS proposal, the nations of France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom will most likely gain more jobs and investment than any state in the union. This proposal benefits European aerospace workers at the expense of American national and economic security.

In addition to being a blow to the American economy and the American worker, we have grave concern about the fairness and execution of the KC-X competition. Most egregiously, the Air Force did not account for the extensive foreign government subsidies and other non-accounted for costs that made the A-330 more competitive. By not accounting for these costs, it is clear that the ground-rules were biased against the domestic-manufacturer.

With regards to the execution of the actual KC-X competition, we have serious questions about how the Air Force scored each of the five bid criteria. Based on initial discussions with Air Force officials and media leaks, the Air Force's ratings of each competitor appear unfair, incomplete, and at times illogical. A thorough review is warranted and necessary.

Based on these concerns, we ask you to suspend forthwith the KC-45 Tanker contract.
We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress



Pat Roberts
United States Senate



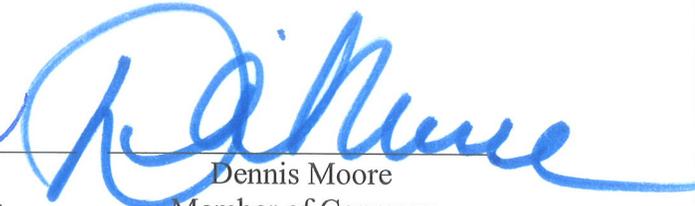
Sam Brownback
United States Senate



Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



Nancy Boyda
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore
Member of Congress