

CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT

REPRESENTING WASHINGTON'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



TANKER UPDATE

June 17, 2008

<http://reichert.house.gov>



Message from Congressman Dave Reichert

Dear Friends,

The announcement from the GAO on the tanker contract is expected this week.

Awarding a contract to a foreign company makes us reliant on the stability and political cooperation of a foreign country. This puts our national security needlessly in peril, especially when we have a viable American option. This is simply unacceptable, and, regardless of their decision, it is our responsibility to examine the processes that led to the decision by the Air Force.

As the GAO readies to announce their decision, I will continue to protect America and Washington State's interests.

It's important to keep everyone informed; please forward to your lists or to a friend.

- Dave

Click to watch Dave speak on the floor on the decision



Your Recent Comments

"The tanker award to Airbus absolutely needs to be overturned. Our defense systems should be developed by US companies."

Editorial: USAF flubbed tanker's cost . . . and what else? Tacoma News Tribune (June 15, 2008)

The Air Force hasn't said how much it overestimated the cost of Boeing's air-refueling tanker or underestimated the cost of its Airbus competitor. But it could turn out to be a \$100 billion mistake. That's how much the taxpayers could wind up paying if the Pentagon buys the wrong airplane.

Last February, when the Air Force devastated Boeing by awarding its \$35 billion tanker contract to Airbus' parent company, there was at least some reason to believe it had made the right call.

To read more, [click here](#).

Opinion: The hidden security risk

John Bolton, Special to the *Washington Times* (June 17, 2008)

Defense procurement issues are typically matters of eye-glazing complexity and obscurity. Military and corporate jargon, proliferating acronyms and impenetrable regulatory structures dissuade even knowledgeable foreign affairs devotees from paying much attention.

Every so often, however, a military procurement controversy spotlights a more salient national security issue in ways potentially critical to long-term American defense. Just such a moment now confronts us in the controversial Air Force decision awarding a massive aerial-refueling tanker contract to a foreign-dominated consortium.

To read more, [click here](#).

Lawmakers, unions protest tanker deal

April 2008



Dave and other members of the delegation meet with Boeing CEO Jim McNerney

May 2008



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