

PRESS RELEASE



County Council

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30 April 2008

Military Air Refueling Tanker Decision

County Council Declares Support for Aerospace Machinists and Workers

Calls for New Procurement Process

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The Snohomish County Council joined the growing chorus of community leaders expressing their outrage over the U.S. military's awarding of a vital U.S. Air Force air refueling tanker contract to the European-based Airbus consortium.

"This is an issue of jobs, whether we keep American jobs and particularly Snohomish County jobs," said Councilmember Dave Gossett, who introduced the resolution at the behest of the International Association of Aerospace Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO - District 751 and The Boeing Company. Several member of District 751 attended the council meeting.

Councilmembers unanimously called for "withdrawing the appropriation for the Airbus tanker" and starting from scratch a new contract competition "which will factor in the American economy, American jobs, national defense implications, the strategic importance of an American aerospace industry, the impact of additional long-term operating costs to taxpayers, the impact on the environment, the illegal European subsidies to Airbus, and will create a fair and consistent selection criteria."

"The 767 is the best return on investment for taxpayers," said Gossett, "because the Boeing plane is clearly the best buy for the taxpayers of our country. It is more fuel efficient and will have far lower operating costs. And it's also an issue of national security, something we have all been very concerned about."

Snohomish County, he said, intends to work closely with the state's Congressional delegation to make sure the Air Force's new air tanker will be built by Boeing.

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[The entire resolution follows]

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 08-013

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AEROSPACE MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS, AFL-CIO DISTRICT 751 AND THE BOEING COMPANY PROTEST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RELATING TO THE REFUELING CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE U.S.AIR FORCE

WHEREAS, American taxpayers are outraged that the U.S. Government awarded a \$40 billion contract to European based Airbus to build the U.S. Air Force air refueling tanker; and

WHEREAS, a Machinists Union-member-built Boeing tanker would have provided 9,000 jobs in Washington State, more than 44,000 family-wage jobs in America, and added \$400 million to our state's economy; and

WHEREAS, The Boeing Company has formally protested the decision and asked the Government Accountability Office to determine if the tanker acquisition process, including the cost analysis, was unfair and flawed; and

WHEREAS, the loss of the tanker contract to Airbus affects America's aerospace industry's future and with the loss of America's aerospace manufacturing capacity, will lose our intellectual property and competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS, our nation will be reliant on a foreign countries to provide the military hardware needed to defend our nation – that is not only the same country that is the number one trading partner of Iraq, but a country that has sold nuclear technology to our enemies; and

WHEREAS, our nation has spent billions of dollars developing, producing, operating and maintaining vital defense assets to fly at least two generations of American military men and women; and

WHEREAS, the Airbus tanker's substantial size will require additional billions of dollars in construction costs to expanding air bases, landing strips and construct new hangers; and

WHEREAS, the Boeing tanker requires 24% less fuel (an estimated \$30 billion saving to taxpayers) and creates 30% less greenhouse gas with a significant less global warming impact, and would require 22% less costly maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Airbus has never built a tanker in cooperation with Northrop/Grumman, has no factory to build a tanker, nor has Airbus hired or trained the skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council is in support of withdrawing the appropriation for the Airbus tanker and that a new contract competition be commenced which will factor in the American economy, American jobs, national defense implications, the strategic importance of an American aerospace industry, the impact of additional long-term operating costs to taxpayers, the impact on the environment, the illegal European subsidies to Airbus, and will create a fair and consistent selection criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Snohomish County Council will forward this resolution to President George Bush, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressman Jay Inslee, Congressman Rick Larsen, Congressman Brian Baird, Congressman Doc Hastings, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rogers, Congressman Norm Dicks, Congressman Jim McDermott, Congressman Dave Reichert and Congressman Adam Smith.

PASSED this 23rd day of April, 2008.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington