

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 14, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madame Speaker and Mr. Leader:

We are writing to make you aware of our deep concern with the Air Force's recent decision to award a \$35 billion tanker air refueling contract to the Northrop Grumman/European Aeronautic Defense & Space Company (EADS) team offering a tanker based on an Airbus A330 airplane.

Fundamental flaws in the conduct of the tanker competition appear to have affected the Air Force's decision and underpin the ongoing legal protest of the award to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). On many levels, the decision is contrary to America's broad national security and economic interests. And, the selection of Northrop/EADS (parent company to Airbus) is at extreme odds with the Administration's trade case at the World Trade Organization that alleges Airbus received billions of dollars of illegal subsidies that have long distorted the commercial airplane market.

The GAO is currently engaged in examining the many legal and process questions associated with the Air Force's tanker competition and decision. But the necessary GAO review will not address the broader national and economic security concerns raised by the tanker decision. Congress must address these serious issues before the tanker program can move forward – we owe it to the warfighter, to American workers, and to American taxpayers to ensure not just that the technical acquisition process worked as it was supposed to, but that the Nation buys the best tanker.

We urge your support in ensuring that the House addresses these important national security and industrial base issues in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



DAVE REICHERT  
Member of Congress



PHIL HARE  
Member of Congress



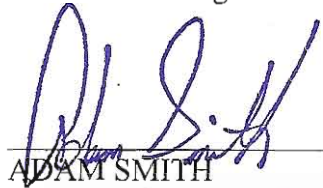
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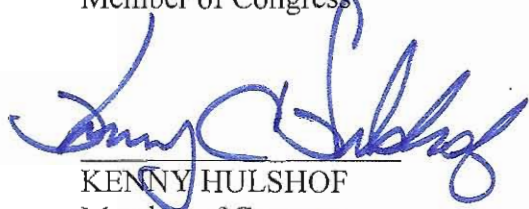
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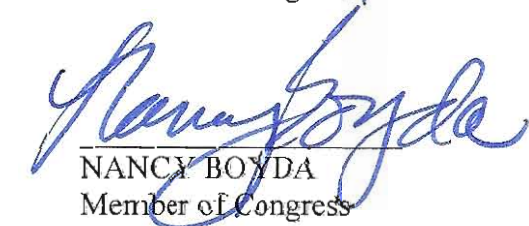
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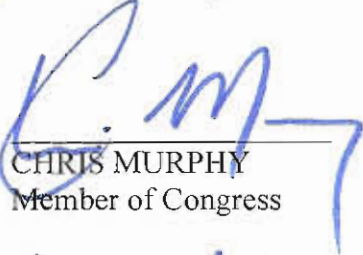
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STEVE ROTHMAN  
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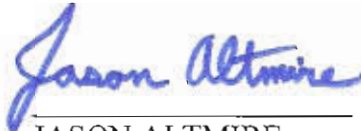
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RUSS CARNAHAN  
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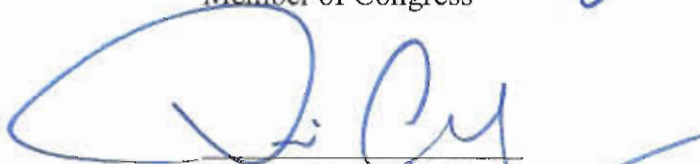
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