

Air Force Tanker Contracting Practices

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

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6 **WHEREAS** a union member-built Boeing tanker would have provided over 9000 jobs in
7 Washington State, over 44 thousand family wage jobs in America and \$400 million to our state's
8 economy;

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10 **WHEREAS** the loss of the tanker contract to Airbus affects America's aerospace industry future and
11 with the loss of America's aerospace manufacturing capacity our nation will have to rely on foreign
12 countries to provide the military hardware needed to defend our nation;

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14 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Air Force switched the section criteria after the contract bids were submitted
15 and that change better suited the Airbus bid and disadvantaged the Boeing proposal;

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17 **WHEREAS** the Airbus tanker's larger airframe will require billions of dollars in additional
18 construction costs including expanding air bases, landing strips and new hangers;

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20 **WHEREAS** the Boeing tanker would require 24% less fuel (an estimated \$10 billion saving to
21 taxpayers) and create 30% less greenhouse gases with a significant lessening of a global warming
22 impact;

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24 **WHEREAS** Airbus has not yet built tankers in cooperation with Northrop/Grumman, the factory in
25 Alabama has yet not been built, nor have 1500 skilled workers been hired or trained, workers
26 needed to finish the Airbus tanker; and

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28 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Government has filed charges against the European governments for illegal
29 subsidies which gave Airbus an unfair pricing advantage over Boeing;

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31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee go on
32 record in support of withdrawing the appropriation for the Airbus tanker and a new contract
33 competition be commenced which will factor in the American economy, American jobs, national
34 defense implications, the strategic importance of an American aerospace industry, the impact of
35 additional long-term operating costs to taxpayers, the impact on the environment, the illegal
36 European subsidies to Airbus, and will create a fair and consistent selection criteria; and

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
39 Committee forward this resolution to the US President, the Washington State Delegation to the US
40 Congress, the Washington State Legislature and the Governor.

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43 Submitted by the 6th Legislative District Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
44 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 3/19/2008)

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46 Submitted by the Spokane County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
47 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/23/2008)

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49 Submitted by the Klickitat County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
50 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/26/2008)

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52 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS" at
53 its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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55 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14, 2008 meeting
56 in Spokane.

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