



Legislation Text

File #: 2010-0185, **Version:** 1

Clerk 03/11/2010

A MOTION urging the United States Department of Defense to select the Boeing Company to build the next midair refueling tanker.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense has begun the process to procure the Air Force's next midair refueling tanker, and

WHEREAS, Boeing and Airbus are anticipated to be the competitors to build that tanker, and

WHEREAS, that contract could be worth \$35 billion, and

WHEREAS, the United States economy is currently struggling through a recession of historic magnitude, and

WHEREAS, unemployment nationally and in Washington remains around ten percent, and

WHEREAS, United States taxpayers deserve the best tanker at the least cost, and

WHEREAS, the Boeing Company has a history of producing successful tankers for the United States Air Force and other countries' air forces, and

WHEREAS, Boeing can deliver a better aircraft more quickly to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen, and

WHEREAS, Boeing will build its tankers in Everett, Washington, at a proven plant, with a highly skilled and dedicated regional workforce that has a tradition of building the best airplanes in the world, and

WHEREAS, the Seattle metropolitan statistical area has the highest concentration of aerospace jobs in the world, and

WHEREAS, Seattle and the Puget Sound region is home to the vast majority of Boeing's more than

75,000 workers, and

WHEREAS, each job at Boeing supports nearly three additional jobs, and

WHEREAS, aerospace workers earn an average of more than \$50,000 a year, which is sixty per cent higher than the average for all private sector industries, and

WHEREAS, most aerospace companies are relatively small businesses, many with five to fifty employees, and

WHEREAS, approximately \$5.4 billion is paid in annual wages to aerospace workers, which is five percent of all wages paid in the state, and

WHEREAS, the metropolitan King County council values these jobs and the people who hold them, and will make it a priority to ensure Washington and the Puget Sound region remains the best place to design, build and market commercial airplanes, and

WHEREAS, our national security interests are not served by sending this valuable and strategic program overseas, and

WHEREAS, Airbus has a majority of its workers in Europe, and by its own admission would only do the finishing work for a tanker in the United States, which is as little as five percent, and

WHEREAS, awarding the contract to Boeing can create or retain 40,000 to 50,000 American jobs at a time in history when we desperately need them, and

WHEREAS, United States taxpayers are not served by buying tankers from both Boeing and Airbus in this competition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. The United States Department of Defense should select Boeing over Airbus to build the next midair refueling tanker.

B. The United States Department of Defense should not split the contract between the two competitors.

C. Copies of this motion should be immediately transmitted by the clerk of the council to the Boeing

corporate offices in Chicago, Boeing Commercial Airplanes in Seattle, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace.