

# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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April 8, 2008

Hon. John Murtha, Chair  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House  
H-149 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Daniel Inouye, Chair  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
119 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Bill Young, Ranking Member  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House  
H-149 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Ted Stevens, Ranking Member  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
179 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

As President of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing to ask that your respective Subcommittees work to defund the pending U.S. Air Force Tanker contract awarded to Airbus/EADS. In particular, we at IFPTE are hopeful that your FY09 Defense Appropriations measure will include legislative language to that effect.

Needless to say, those of us in the labor community that represent the dedicated workers at The Boeing Company and its numerous U.S.-based suppliers were stunned by the Air Force's awarding such a lucrative, taxpayer-funded contract to a foreign company. Even more alarming to the members of IFPTE, and I even venture to say to U.S. taxpayers overall, is that our very own government is willing to outsource such a strategic defense contract. Not only is it an insult to the American worker to invest their tax dollars abroad, this action could also be the start of the Federal Government's (particularly the DoD) broader effort to outsource taxpayer funded services.

There has also been questionable interference by some in the legislative branch with respect to this contract. Documentation now confirms (which can be found at [www.ifpte.org](http://www.ifpte.org)) that top Pentagon officials did conform the competition process and criteria used in determining the winner of the Tanker contract. Unfortunately for the American taxpayer and worker, the Pentagon seems to have diverted from their normal competition procedure in order to create a more advantageous competition environment for Airbus/EADS.

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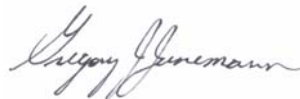
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To make matters worse, this contract was awarded while the U.S. Trade Representative has brought WTO charges against Airbus for receiving illegal and unfair subsidies. It certainly is ironic that at the very time the United States is alleging unfair business practices against Airbus/EADS, our Pentagon not only created a unique process to favor Airbus/EADS, they also actually awarded this allegedly rouge company a lucrative defense contract.

We at IFPTE believe that Congress should defund the Airbus/EADS Tanker contract, hold hearings to bring transparency to the process by which this contract award has come about, and ultimately re-compete it.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director Matt Biggs at (202)239-4880.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Junemann,  
President

Cc: Chairman Carl Levin, Senate Armed Services Committee,  
Chairman Ike Skelton, House Armed Services Committee,  
Hon. John McCain, Senate Ranking Member,  
Hon. Duncan Hunter, House Ranking Member