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# The Philadelphia Inquirer

Posted on Wed, May. 7, 2008

## Letters to the Editor

### French jobs

Our economy is in shambles. Workers are standing on unemployment lines. Doesn't the Pentagon get it? I'm referring to a whopping \$100 billion contract to replace a fleet of refueling tankers awarded to the French Airbus/Northrop Grumman consortium over American-based Boeing ("Not anti-American," April 17).

In the process, the Pentagon ignored Boeing's 85 percent domestically produced tanker, which would support 44,000 American jobs in 40 states and 300 suppliers.

The Pentagon additionally disregarded the lower operating costs and fuel savings Boeing's offer produces, as well as the tanker's durability in combat.

Boeing filed a protest over the bid. It seems the Air Force may have changed requirements for the tanker midstream. And questions remain about how much of Airbus' bottom-line price for the jets is subsidized by European governments.

American defense should be handled by Americans, especially for a project of this magnitude. When American taxpayers fund defense projects, they don't want to subsidize jobs for the French.

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