

Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, has asked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to block a proposed amendment to the FY 2011 Defense Authorization Bill which seeks to disadvantage EADS North America in the KC-X tanker competition.

Congressman Bonner wrote Speaker Pelosi Wednesday in opposition to a proposed FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act amendment offered by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-WA, Rep Rosa DeLauro, D-CT, and Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-KS, which seeks to infuse World Trade Organization deliberations into the tanker contract evaluation process.

Congressman Bonner echoed comments from EADS North America Chairman Ralph Crosby in charging that the proposed Inslee DeLauro Tiahrt Amendment would violate the WTO Treaty and prejudice the KC-X contract against EADS North America.

In addition to all-but-guaranteeing an escalation in trade tensions in aerospace, one of the few sectors of our economy where the U.S. currently enjoys a significant trade advantage, this amendment follows a disturbing trend of late where at least some of Boeing's key supporters will apparently resort to whatever suspect tactics are necessary to all-but guarantee that Boeing doesn't have any competition for the KC-X program, essentially leaving the Department of Defense with no choice but to write a blank check -- signed by the American taxpayers -- to Boeing.

In his letter to Speaker Pelosi, Congressman Bonner said, “I would implore you to consider the message the Inslee, DeLauro, and Tiahrt Amendment would send to tens of thousands of Gulf Coast families who are literally seeing the way of life they have known for generations disappear.”

“Instead of sending a message of support to the Gulf Coast, this amendment would essentially say that the Congress of the United States is on record against giving these wonderful people any chance to ever participate in a fair and open competition – as sanctioned by the Obama Administration and the Department of Defense – for the opportunity to build world class airplanes in support of our brave men and women in uniform.”

The proposed Inslee DeLauro Tiahrt Amendment to the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act was due to be considered Wednesday by the House Rules Committee.

[Congressman Bonner and EADS North America Chairman Crosby letters to Speaker Pelosi](#)