

Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, issued the following statement in response to Boeing supporters' calls for the Defense Department to weigh trade subsidies in selecting a winner in the KC-X tanker competition.

"It is disappointing to see a great aerospace manufacturer like Boeing resort to irrelevant commercial trade issues as its only bargaining chip in seeking to win a major defense contract," said Congressman Jo Bonner.

"Boeing acts as if it cannot compete head-to-head with EADS North America in the KC-X tanker competition and is instead pushing a sole source award based on WTO rulings which have nothing to do with this contract, and frankly, work against Boeing's own position.

"The Administration has made clear its determination to pursue a fair KC-X competition and in so doing should reject Boeing's desperate attempts to infuse ongoing international trade issues with the pending tanker decision.

"As EADS North America prepares to submit its KC-X bid, Boeing's tactics are becoming increasingly desperate. They don't have an aircraft that can meet Air Force specifications, and unlike EADS North America, Boeing hasn't yet produced a prototype of their tanker design.

"EADS North America and the 48,000 workers it will employ in Alabama and across the nation are not asking for a sole source contract, but rather a straight up, honest and open competition on the merits. The American warfighter and taxpayer deserve nothing less."