WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) issued the following statement in response to news reports that the Administration plans to delay procurement of aerial refueling tankers:

"The Air Force has consistently said the tanker replacement program is its #1 priority. It strains credibility to think a new administration would delay this program five years, denying our military its top equipment need.

Our nation relies heavily on tankers to project power around the globe, and the average age of our current fleet is 50 years old.

"We have been trying to replace these aging aircraft since 2001 – an additional delay would be dangerous to our national security and unsupportable here in Congress. I am hopeful there is no validity to this rumor of an Administration delay to this critical program."

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