

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) today made the following statement after the release of the Air Force’s final KC-X Aerial Tanker Request for Proposal (RFP):

“Today we have reached an important milestone in the tanker replacement program with the release of the Air Force’s final RFP. Throughout this acquisition process, I, along with other members of Alabama’s congressional delegation, have been in frequent communication with senior Air Force and Department of Defense officials, including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, in an effort to ensure this tanker procurement formally begins with a fair, level playing field that does not favor one competitor over another.

“As the two potential competitors now pore over the more than 700 page RFP, we will soon learn if that level playing field has been achieved. I am hopeful that both Boeing and Northrop-Grumman officials will find themselves in a position to sharpen their pencils and move forward with highly competitive proposals to build the new Air Force tanker. Competition is vitally important to the process and may be the only way we can guarantee that the war-fighter and the taxpayer are receiving the best tanker for the money.

We owe our military and our taxpayers nothing less.”