WASHINGTON – Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, issued the following statement in response to the selection of Boeing as the contractor for the U.S. Air Force Tanker program.

“After having already won the competition three years ago and having brought to the table the best refueling aircraft for our military, it’s deeply disappointing that Mobile and the Gulf Coast were not chosen as the home of the new Air Force tanker. Unfortunately, the best tanker for our military was not selected. I intend to demand a full accounting as to why.

“While there was great optimism that our team would ultimately prevail, we’ve also been conditioned to expect the unexpected. This competition has been challenged before and it’s not unlikely it will be challenged again.

“It will ultimately be up to EADS to determine whether they will protest this decision and I will fully support whatever decision they make.”