WASHINGTON - Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, issued the following statement after EADS announced its decision not to protest the US Air Force tanker contract award to Boeing.

“After a six year effort on the part of EADS and South Alabama to deliver the very best tanker in the world to the Air Force, it is deeply disappointing to see the contract go to a less capable aircraft which is years away from development. I believe Boeing simply bought the contract with a low-ball bid and I sincerely hope our military and taxpayers are not the ultimate losers if Boeing fails to deliver. I fully support EADS’ decision and thank them for partnering with the Gulf Coast. I believe the experience has been beneficial for both parties and I look forward to Airbus’ continued presence in our region. As for Boeing, I will do all that I can to ensure that they abide by the terms of their contract to produce 18 tankers on time and on budget by 2017. Our warfighters and the taxpayers deserve no less.”