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IFPTE Calls on Congress to De-fund Tanker Contract Union Calls for Another Competition

Washington, DC – In a letter to Congressional appropriators today, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) President Gregory Junemann requested that Congress not only re-compete the Tanker contract, but also de-fund the ability of the Air Force to move forward with awarding the contract to EADS/Airbus.

In the letter to Defense Appropriations Chairmen Murtha and Inouye, and Ranking Members Young and Stevens, the union cited concerns with Congressional interference into the latest competition, and a lack for foresight by the Air Force in awarding such a lucrative and sensitive taxpayer funded contract to a foreign company.

“Needless to say, those of us in the labor community that represent the dedicated workers at The Boeing Company and its U.S.-based suppliers were stunned by the Air Force’s awarding of such a lucrative taxpayer, funded contract to a foreign company,” said Junemann. “Even more alarming to the members of IFPTE, and I even venture to say to U.S. taxpayers overall, is that our very own government is willing to outsource such a strategic defense contract. Not only is it an insult to the American worker to invest their tax dollars abroad, this action could also be the start of the Federal Government’s (particularly the DoD) broader effort to outsource taxpayer funded services.”

Junemann went on to question the wisdom of awarding a contract to a company that the U.S. government has accused of illegal business practices.

“It certainly is ironic that at the very time the United States is alleging unfair business practices against Airbus/EADS, our Pentagon not only created a unique process to favor Airbus/EADS, they also actually awarded this allegedly rouge company a lucrative defense contract... We at IFPTE believe that Congress should defund the Airbus/EADS Tanker contract, hold hearings to bring transparency to the process by which this contract award has come about, and ultimately re-compete it.”

IFPTE Local 2001, SPEEA, represents over 24,000 workers at The Boeing Company and its U.S.-based suppliers.

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