

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6020

A RESOLUTION urging Congress and the President of the United States to halt the contract process for the Air Force mid-air refueling tanker until Congress and the President of the United States have reviewed and approved all the technical, security and economic aspects of the purchase.

WHEREAS, The Boeing Company has been building and maintaining refueling tankers for the United States Air Force (USAF) for 50 years and has more experience building tankers than any other company on earth; and

WHEREAS, The KC-767 meets or exceeds all Air Force requirements including range and fuel offload capabilities, mission flexibility for carrying patients, passengers and material; and

WHEREAS, The KC-767 will interoperate with 99% of the Air Force's existing equipment, saving an estimated \$4 billion in lifecycle costs, and will operate from existing infrastructure throughout the world saving the expense of costly runway, tarmac and hangar expansion required for the larger Airbus plane; and

WHEREAS, The Boeing tanker utilizes the most advanced technology, including an unrivaled 6th generation boom with cutting edge controls at increased fueling speeds. It has an advanced flight deck based on modern 777 control, and the KC-767 can operate from many more bases worldwide. The Airbus model is so large it cannot land at many critical military bases, reducing its value as a military support asset; and

WHEREAS, On February 29, 2008, the USAF awarded Northrop Grumman Corp. a \$35 billion contract to build and maintain 179 airborne refueling planes; and

WHEREAS, The USAF chose Northrop Grumman's bid over a competing bid from Boeing, an American company based out of Chicago, IL, and Airbus' chief competitor; and

WHEREAS, Northrop Grumman will build the Airbus A330 in Toulouse, France. While the American taxpayer will pay the bill for this untested plane to be "finished" in a yet-to-be-built facility in the U.S., the Boeing tankers would be built on an existing assembly line in the U.S. and contain 85% U.S. content; and

WHEREAS, The European-built tanker burns 24% more fuel while flying, producing 30% higher emissions and an estimated \$14.6 billion more in fuel costs over the life of the plane; and

WHEREAS, Awarding the contract to Boeing would have meant the creation or retention of about 44,000 skilled jobs in the high-technology aviation industry here in the United States. What was lost here in Kansas was 500 jobs in the Wichita area, 3,800 jobs throughout the state, and a direct benefit to the state of Kansas of \$145 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Given the current state of the U.S. economy, taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund the economic growth of European countries, while America loses 44,000 quality jobs associated with the KC-767; and

WHEREAS, Relying on a foreign supplier of military equipment is unwise and not in the national security interest of the country: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That the President of the United States and Congress are strongly urged to immediately and vigorously investigate the proposed outsourcing of taxpayer-funded jobs; its impact on the U.S. economy and the procurement process that made possible this transfer of billions of dollars to foreign workers.

Be it further resolved: That the President of the United States and Congress are urged to investigate and thoroughly review the benefits, costs and national security risks associated with contracting for the design and construction of high-technology military equipment and systems in and by foreign nations which may not always share U.S. interests, objectives and missions.

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense and each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.