

Gov. Gregoire's statement on Boeing's appeal of tanker contract decision (March 10, 2008)

OLYMPIA – Gov. Chris Gregoire's today issued the following statement on Boeing's appeal of the tanker contract:

"I fully support the Boeing Company's decision today to formally protest the Air Force contract awarded to Airbus and Northrop Grumman.

"I understand this is an extraordinary step by Boeing and the first time the company has protested a contract decision. Boeing's decision was only done after the company did a thoughtful review of the process that selected the European company over Boeing to replace 179 air-to-air refueling tankers.

"Boeing and its work force are the best manufacturer of airplanes in the world. It is an outrage at a time when the national economy is weakening, American jobs would be sent overseas. The high-wage jobs this contract would offer are precisely the type of jobs we need to keep in America.

"I will continue to support with our Congressional delegation and my fellow governors to demand answers about the Air Force's decision."

Joint statement by Gov. Gregoire and Gov. Sebelius on Air Force tanker contract (March 4, 2008)

OLYMPIA – Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire and Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius today issued the following statement:

"Like many of our fellow citizens, we were shocked by the Air Force's decision to award a multibillion-dollar military contract to a foreign company. We cannot understand that at a time when our economy is struggling, the Bush administration would send American jobs and American money overseas.

"The decision is particularly surprising to us when Kansas and Washington have the best manufacturer of airplanes with the best work force in our states. These are high-wage, high-skill jobs — exactly the type of jobs we need to keep in America.

"We've been in contact with Boeing representatives and they will meet with federal officials to discuss the contract. We will support Boeing in its decision about whether to appeal the awarding of this contract.

"We also support our respective congressional delegations in asking very tough questions about this decision, and stand ready to work with them to make sure the award of the tanker contract protects our workers, our taxpayers, our military personnel and our country."