

Larson Questions Air Force Explanation for Tanker Choice

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DC

-- Members of the
Connecticut

delegation met with the Air Force this morning to be debriefed on the source
selection process for the KC-x Tanker Program.

While, the information the Air Force was limited in their ability to
share specifics because of Boeing's pending protest, many important and basic
questions still need to be answered.

Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01), who called for the meeting, said
afterwards,

"I am still not
convinced of the merits of the Northrup Grumman tanker. The Air Force was unable
to give us a clear explanation of why the Northrup Grumman -EADs plane was
chosen over one that would be built in this country by Boeing and Pratt and
Whitney. It appears on most factors
that planes were rated equally.

It also seems as though the Air Force gave no consideration to the dangers of outsourcing our military technology to foreign companies. The Air Force itself is caught up in the negative impacts of globalization. They gave no consideration to the importance of maintaining a critical mass of trained and skill workers in this country who can take on any crisis we may face in the future.

There are many issues that we in Congress will need to take a closer look at. One is the claims filed against EADs for receiving illegal subsidies from the European Union. Those subsidies make for an uneven playing field between the competing companies.

Congress has a Constitutional responsibility to remedy the situation. That is why upcoming hearings are so important."