

# Pat Roberts

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS



CONTACT: Sarah Ross Little (202) 224-4774

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 18, 2008**

## **Senator Roberts Hails Boeing-Tanker Win *Calls for New Tanker Contract***

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Pat Roberts today hailed the General Accounting Office (GAO) for upholding the Boeing Company’s protest of the Air Force’s aerial refueling tanker decision, calling it “a major win for Kansas and America’s industrial base.”

Roberts immediately called for the Air Force to re-compete the contract.

“We have said repeatedly that the Air Force’s decision was wrong and skewed to the wrong company with the wrong plane,” Senator Roberts said. “This decision confirms everything we have said. The Air Force has no choice but to rebid the tanker contract, this time with a level playing field, for our men and women in uniform, for our national security and for Kansas workers.”

“This finding proves that all of our hard work for Boeing over so many years has made a difference,” Roberts said. “And we won’t stop now. We’ll keep fighting until Boeing wins the contract fair and square.”

Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Todd Tiahrt plan to introduce legislation requiring the Air Force to re-compete the contract.

“GAO upheld the Boeing Company’s protest, finding serious and fatal flaws in the Air Force’s decision to award the contract,” Roberts said.

Senator Roberts thanked Senators Sam Brownback, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Congressman Todd Tiahrt and Congressman Norm Dicks for their outstanding and dedicated bipartisan work on Boeing’s behalf. “We have an excellent congressional team that has fought tooth and nail for Boeing workers across the country and we celebrate this decision with them today. It’s right. It’s fair. It protects America’s national security.”