



Media Advisory – June 18, 2008

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Reardon applauds decision favoring Boeing

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon applauded a federal decision Wednesday requesting the Boeing Co.'s bid to build the U.S. Air Force's next refueling tanker be reconsidered.

The General Accountability Office sustained Boeing's protest of the Air Force's decision to award the lucrative contract to a joint venture between Northrop Grumman Systems Corp. and EADS, parent of Airbus.

"We're pleased with today's decision and the steps Boeing has taken to try and win this contract fairly," Reardon said. "This isn't just about making the best airplanes in the world – as Boeing does – but it's about saving American jobs."

A recent report by the Economic Policy Institute suggests "at least 14,000 jobs that could have been generated in the United States if the contract had gone to Boeing will not be created" under the current contract award.

"We've worked hard to make Snohomish County the fastest growing job base in the state of Washington, and we're committed to supporting Boeing in its efforts to land this tanker," Reardon said. "We're doing our part, now it's time for the federal government to do its part."

Reardon also thanked the Washington Congressional delegation for its vigilance in bringing to light the flaws inherent in the bidding process.

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