



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**McMorris Rodgers' Statement on the Postponement of  
Air Refueling Tanker Contract**

(Washington, D.C.) Today, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers released the following statement after the Defense Department announced today it will postpone until the next administration the current competition for the new air refueling tanker contract:

“I am optimistic the Air Force will use this delay to fix problems found during the most recent bidding process. It is important we ensure the procurement process is fair and transparent so we can be sure we are building the best tankers possible for America at the best value for taxpayers.

“It is also important for our Armed Forces that we replace the aging KC-135 tankers at Fairchild Air Force Base as soon as possible. Most of the KC-135's were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Operating aircraft that will be 80 to 90 years old, before they will be retired, is simply unheard of in the civilian commercial industry.”

Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers represents Fairchild Air Force Base, the largest employer in the Spokane area. Since coming to Congress in 2005, she has been working to protect and expand the role of Fairchild AFB. Included in that effort is her work to ensure the next generation of air refueling tankers is based at Fairchild AFB.

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