



**Signature Report**

**May 6, 2008**

**Motion 12745**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0248.1

**Sponsors** Constantine, Hague, Phillips,  
Lambert, Patterson, Ferguson,  
Dunn, von Reichbauer and Gossett

1                   A MOTION supporting withdrawal of federal appropriation  
2                   for the Airbus tanker and supporting a new competitive  
3                   contract for the building of certain military hardware.  
4

5                   WHEREAS, the United States Air Force recently awarded to Northrop Grumman  
6                   Corp. and European partner Airbus a \$35 billion contract to build airborne refueling  
7                   planes, rather than the Everett, Washington-based Boeing facility, and

8                   WHEREAS, at a time of looming national recession, the \$35-billion contract,  
9                   which could ultimately be worth \$100 billion over thirty years, for aerial refueling  
10                  tankers has already led to a sharp decline in share price for the American company and an  
11                  increase in stock price for the foreign competitor, and

12                  WHEREAS, the loss of the tanker contract to Airbus affects the future of the  
13                  American aerospace industry and America's competitive advantage, through a loss of  
14                  aerospace manufacturing capacity and intellectual resources, and

15                  WHEREAS, the Boeing company has a long and storied history of building the  
16                  world's greatest commercial and military aircraft, including nearly two thousand tankers,  
17                  in stark contrast to Airbus, which has no experience building tankers, and

18           WHEREAS, the awarding of this multibillion dollar contract, to be paid by  
19           American taxpayers to Airbus's parent company, the European Aeronautic Defense and  
20           Space company, could ultimately mean the loss of thousands of local jobs and thousands  
21           more statewide and nationwide at a time when such highly skilled and well-paying jobs  
22           are greatly needed to spur economic growth and thwart any recessionary trends, and

23           WHEREAS Airbus has never built a tanker in cooperation with  
24           Northrop/Grumman, has no factory to build a tanker and has not hired or trained the  
25           skilled workers necessary to do this work, and

26           WHEREAS, much of the infrastructure and many of the skilled laborers and  
27           engineers that would be needed to build parts for the new tanker in Mobile, Alabama, do  
28           not yet exist, as opposed to the facility in Everett, Washington, which is ready, willing  
29           and able to build the American-made tankers immediately, and

30           WHEREAS, a Machinists Union-member-built Boeing tanker would have  
31           provide nine thousand jobs in Washington state, more than forty-four thousand family-  
32           wage jobs in the United States and added \$400 million to our state's economy, and

33           WHEREAS, the Airbus tanker's substantial size will require additional billions of  
34           dollars in construction costs to expand air bases and landing strips and to construct new  
35           hangers, and

36           WHEREAS, the Boeing Company has formally protested the decision and asked  
37           the Government Accountability Office to determine if the tanker acquisition process,  
38           including the cost analysis, was unfair and flawed, and

39           WHEREAS, the council firmly believes that in order to protect our national  
40           security and America's military strength in the world, it is right and justified to invest in

41 our American engineers, our manufacturing industry, and our military, rather than rely on  
42 that of a foreign government that may or may not agree with our mission in the world and  
43 could undermine it by withholding needed supplies and machinery;

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

45 A. The council urges the United States Congress to take action to halt the  
46 procurement of foreign-made tankers to be used by the United States Air Force and  
47 reconsider the awarding of this contract in the name of national and economic security.

48 B. The council clerk is directed to forward this motion to the Honorable George  
49 W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the

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50 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the state of  
51 Washington.

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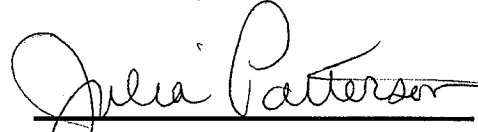
Motion 12745 was introduced on 5/5/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/5/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague

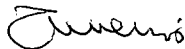
No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None