



Keep thousands of Missourians at work and save taxpayers over \$600 million at the same time? It seems like common sense, but government bureaucrats did all they could to oppose it. Congressman Akin fought the Pentagon bureaucracy for a long-term contract for the F/A-18 Super Hornet, and his persistence and tenacity resulted in saving over \$600 million for taxpayers, keeping thousands of Missourians employed building the F/A-18, and helped the U.S. Navy address a shortage of fighters for their aircraft carrier.

The Super Hornet is one of the rare defense programs that has been under budget and ahead of schedule throughout its existence. Built here in St. Louis, the Super Hornets are the U.S. Navy's premier fighter aircraft and are flying off the decks of aircraft carriers around the world, providing cover to our troops and striking fear in the hearts of our enemies. Over the course of three years and two Presidential administrations, Congressman Akin has fought for a long-term contract for F/A-18s and won.

Congressman Akin's efforts to secure a long term contract for F/A-18's began in 2008. [Akin successfully offered an amendment](#) in the Democrat-controlled House Armed Services Committee to require the Pentagon to submit data legally required for a long-term contract. Akin fought to keep this provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 as it moved through the House and Senate, and was successful in seeing it signed into law. (

Sec. 124 of H.R. 5658, Sec. 123 of S. 3001, signed into law.

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In 2009, Congressman Akin became the ranking Republican of the Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee. In June 2009, Congressman Akin [offered an amendment](#) in the Armed Services Committee to require a multiyear contract for F/A-18's. This became known as the “

[Akin Amendment](#)

” and was met with stiff opposition from the Obama Pentagon. Akin fought throughout the legislative process and ultimately prevailed in having this provision signed into law. (*Sec. 124 of HR 2647 passed by House, became Sec. 128 of HR 2647 when signed into law.*

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With the long term contract requirement signed into law, Congressman Akin pressed senior leaders in the Pentagon to move forward with the multiyear contract for F/A-18's. In February 2010, Congressman Akin pressed Secretary of Defense Robert Gates about it [[video](#)] and the Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and the Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Roughead [[video](#)

]. These questions led to numerous news stories wondering why the Pentagon was unwilling to save money by using a long term contract for F/A-18's. Later that month, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

editorial board, generally critical of Akin's conservative political views, wrote

[an editorial supporting Akin's efforts](#)

on the long term contract for F/A-18's, saying “on F/A-18's, Todd Akin gets one right.”

In April 2010, Congressman Akin penned an [op-ed in the St. Louis Beacon](#) calling for the Pentagon to implement this long term contract for F/A-18's. Finally, in May 2010, after years of legislative actions, letters, opeds, and news stories, the

[Pentagon decided](#)

that Congressman Akin was right—a long term contract for F/A-18's made sense for the Navy, saved taxpayers over \$600 million, and kept thousands of people employed in good jobs in Missouri and around the country.