March 2, 2007

Todd Akin's Statement Regarding C-17 Line Announcement

Washington, D.C. –Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, released the following statement in response to Boeing's announcement that the C-17 line may end in mid-2009 due to a lack of government and international orders.

Noting that the C-17 is the backbone of our military's airlift capability, Congressman Akin stated that:

"The C-17 is the plane that our troops rely on today and we cannot let the line close without any other viable option being available.

"It is critical that the Air Force and Congress recognize the poor maintenance record of the C-5A model airlift and allow the Air Force to replace the aging C-5A with the tremendous reliability and performance demonstrated by the C-17.

"My office will actively seek support to retire the C-5A fleet with the more reliable C-17."