

February 12, 2004

Akin Advocates EA-18G Before House Armed Service Committee

Washington, D.C. - The House Armed Services Committee met today in open session to receive testimony from some of the nation's senior military leaders on the Fiscal Year 2005 budget request for the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), a member of the Committee who has spearheaded the development of Boeing's EA-18G, submitted the following statement for the official record:

"The Navy has contracted for the EA-18G to replace the EA-6B Airborne Electronic Attack asset. It is my understanding that the Defense Department needs to bring the EA-18G into service in a very focused and fully funded manner as the EA-6B is aging rapidly due to heavy operational tempo. Our budget priorities must include adequate funding to this end in the next fiscal year. As a matter of national security, rapid production of the EA-18G is nothing less than essential."

Akin also submitted inquiries about establishing the second Multi-year contract for an additional 210 F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets and the continuation of the T-45 Goshawk training systems, which are available upon request.