

March 1, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Today the Department of Defense asked to extend the deadline for notifying Congress of its intent to pursue a multiyear purchasing agreement for F/A-18E/F/G Super Hornets. Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces, released the following statement in response.

“While I am encouraged that it seems the Navy sees the fiscal wisdom of entering into a multi-year contract for F/A-18’s, I am concerned that this may also represent foot-dragging by the senior civilian leadership of DoD. This deadline has been in place since last fall and should have been fairly easy to meet.

“Last week, in response to my questioning at an Armed Services hearing, the Navy confirmed that they had a firm offer from Boeing that would save them 10% over the course of a multiyear contract [[watch video](#)]. This 10% savings over four years could easily represent a half a billion dollars, which is savings that the DoD would be irresponsible to squander.

“In questioning in early February, Secretary Gates told me that the DoD has a threshold of 10% savings for entering into multi-year contracts. This threshold has been met, so it is time

for Secretary Gates to step up and make this multiyear happen. Anything less would raise serious questions about the priorities of the Department of Defense. The only thing preventing taxpayers and the Navy from saving a half a billion dollars or more, is the Secretary of Defense and his staff. It is time for them to make this multiyear happen or get out of the way.”

Congressman Akin has been championing an F/A-18 multiyear contract for over two years as something that benefits taxpayers, the Navy and the St. Louis region. In 2008, Akin inserted language into the defense authorization act requiring the Department of Defense to report to Congress on the potential cost savings of a multiyear contract for F/A-18's. In 2009, Congressman Akin successfully added an amendment to the defense authorization act giving the Navy the authority to enter into a multiyear contract for F/A-18's.

Video:

- [Congressman Akin asks the Secretary of the Navy and the CNO about F/A-18 multiyear and Navy fighter shortfall](#) [FEB 24, 2010]
- [Congressman Akin asks the Secretary of Defense about the F/A-18 multiyear and Navy fighter shortfall](#) [FEB 3, 2010]

- 30 -