St. Louis, MO – Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, released the following statement after the Department of Defense announced their decision regarding the tanker replacement program.

“The Air Force is in desperate need of a new air refueling tanker. The first of these planes was bought the same year that color television was introduced in the United States. Asking airmen to fly a plane that may be older than their parents is simply unacceptable.

“While I am personally excited by this decision, we have very little information at this point to evaluate whether the competition was fair and level. The Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee will hold a hearing on this issue as soon as enough information is publicly available.“

NOTE: The Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee has jurisdiction over Navy shipbuilding programs as well as Air Force projection platforms including bombers, tankers and airlift aircraft.