(WASHINGTON, DC) - Congressman Rob Wittman released the following statement regarding Defense Secretary Robert Gates' Tanker announcement earlier today:

"I hope that Department of Defense involvement in this limited re-bid will stabilize the process and provide a resolution by the end of the year. It is absolutely critical that we provide our Air Force with the best possible tanker and that the tanker bidding process be fair and efficient. Each day this process is delayed is another day our Airmen are using a tanker from the 1950s."

Congressman Wittman serves on the House Armed Services Committee.