

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2011

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION

HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT,
CHAIRMAN

Her Excellency Dilma Vana Rousseff
President
The Republic of Brazil
Brasilia, Brazil

Dear Madam President:

First, please allow me to congratulate you on your recent inauguration as the President of the Republic of Brazil. As a member of the United States Senate, I look forward to working with you and your countrymen on issues of mutual importance to our two great countries in the months and years ahead.

As has been widely reported in recent months, your government has extended the ongoing selection process for the supplier of the F-X2, the next generation of Brazilian fighter aircraft. I would like to express my strong support for the Boeing Company's effort to supply the Brazilian military with the F/A-18 Super Hornet, a remarkable combat aircraft that Boeing has delivered to its customers on-time and efficiently.

Since its introduction to the U.S. fleet in 1999, the Super Hornet has built a record of outstanding performance in a variety of roles and areas of operation around the world. Whether conducting anti-piracy operations off the East African coast or flying combat sorties in the skies above Iraq and Afghanistan, the Super Hornet has performed exceptionally and has gained an unmatched reputation among America's fighting forces. As I have carried out meetings with U.S. Navy leaders during my tenure in the U.S. Senate about tactical fighter aircraft, I have been increasingly impressed by the consistency of the accolades they shower on the F/A-18 and the degree to which they revere its supreme, reliable performance. Further, though I am sure each bidder for this contract has designed excellent aircraft, I doubt any has been as extensively combat-tested – under the toughest conditions – as Boeing's Super Hornet.

Additionally, I would like to underscore that the United States government stands fully behind the potential sale of the F/A-18 Super Hornets, and select accompanying technology, to the Brazilian Air Force. This transaction is an important step forward in strengthening the relationship between our countries, and I firmly believe that a partnership with U.S. industry will yield long-term benefits for the Brazilian economy.

I strongly believe that the Boeing Company's F-X2 bid offers Brazil a preeminent aircraft and ready access to some of the world's most advanced aerospace technology. As the contract would provide an excellent defense capability while facilitating the growth of the Brazilian aerospace industry, I hope that you will give the Boeing Company's submission every appropriate consideration as you continue your review of the F-X2 fighter competition.

Madam President, I thank you graciously for your time, consideration and leadership and hope that we will someday have the opportunity to meet in person to discuss how we can advance the enduring partnership between Brazil and the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" starting with a large loop and the last name "McCaskill" ending with a large flourish.

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator