

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today released the following statement on General Electric’s decision to terminate their extra engine program for the F35 Joint Strike Fighter:

“General Electric’s decision to terminate this unnecessary, costly project will finally remove any risk that taxpayers may be saddled with the costs of sustaining an extra engine in the future. The Pentagon said repeatedly they did not want or need the extra engine, and Congress voted overwhelmingly to stop funding it. The extra engine is a luxury we simply cannot afford.

“Ending this wasteful program will not only save taxpayer money, it may also help boost job creation here in Florida. Growing up in Palm Beach Gardens, many of my friends’ parents worked for Pratt & Whitney and made a good living, but those jobs have gone away over the last couple of decades. I hope that by terminating the extra engine program and focusing federal funds on the original, Pratt engine, we can help bring some of those jobs back to Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast area.”

The House voted in favor of Rooney’s bipartisan amendment to strike funding for the extra engine by a 233-198 margin. Rooney’s bipartisan amendment saved taxpayers \$450 million in fiscal year 2011, and approximately \$3 billion in the years to come. The Department of Defense terminated the contract for the extra engine for the F35 Joint Strike Fighter in April.

###