

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – August 15, 2003

During this Congressional Recess, I've spent the past two weeks traveling throughout Washington state meeting with people about everything from the economy to healthcare and transportation. I'm proud to share some of the highlights of my travels with you.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Boeing 7E7: I visited both Moses Lake and Everett to meet with local officials who are working to attract the new Boeing 7E7 facility to our state. On 8/4 in Moses Lake, I toured the proposed site and met with representatives of the Grant County EDC and the Ports of Moses Lake and Grant County. The following week in Everett (8/15), I discussed Everett's bid with local officials including Commissioner Bob Drewel and Everett Mayor Frank Anderson.

Kitsap County: On 8/5, I joined with community leaders, tourism officials and the Kitsap County EDC to discuss ways to support tourism and economic development in Kitsap County.

Washington Wine Country: On 8/11 in Yakima, I met with the Washington Wine Consortium and talked about ways to expand Washington's wine industry as a tourist destination in Yakima.

WORKERS

WorkSource Training: As Congress prepares to update the Workforce Investment Act, I visited two centers in our state which strive to improve worker training. In Tacoma (8/14), I toured the WorkSource Center and met with the Tacoma-Pierce County Workforce Development Council. In Moses Lake (8/4), I toured a Skill-Source training center and held a roundtable with local agencies that are working to train employees.

EDUCATION

Head Start: In Kitsap County on 8/5, I met with Head Start directors from the Puget Sound and Olympic Peninsula region at the Rosemary Moen Head Start Center to discuss the Congressional reauthorization of Head Start. In early August, I introduced the Senate Democratic Proposal to strengthen Head Start and to provide more resources so that all children can start school ready to learn.

First Book: On 8/7 in Seattle, I helped the Coast Guard distribute new books to low-income and rural schools. The Coast Guard supports First Book, a national effort to provide children with their own, new books. In the Senate, I secured \$500,000 to support First Book in Washington State. I also had the opportunity to read to children from the First African Methodist Episcopal Child and Family Center.

GEAR UP: At the University of Washington on 8/7, I spoke to 200 high school students attending the summer GEAR UP program, a week-long educational summer camp for underprivileged youth. GEAR UP is a federal effort that provides mentors and other resources for students who otherwise would not go to college. I've been proud to support it in the Senate.

Gonzaga: In Spokane on 8/12, I spoke at the kickoff of the new partnership between Gonzaga and the NEXT IT Corporation to create an artificial intelligence lab to improve education.

UW: Later that day in Seattle, I spoke at the groundbreaking for the new UW Genome Sciences and Bioengineering Center, for which I secured \$6 million in federal funding. On 8/14, I toured the UW's Tacoma Institute of Technology and talked with students about their projects.

Foster Care: On 8/7 in Seattle, I toured the Mockingbird Society, a foster care service organization for which I secured \$325,000 in the 2003 Appropriations bill.

HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Summit: I held a day-long Hispanic Leadership Summit in Yakima on 8/11, which more than 100 people attended. I was joined by Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and dozens of Washington's Hispanic leaders. We discussed education, economic development, civil rights and health care.

JUDICIARY

Magistrate Ricardo Martinez: Last week, President Bush nominated Ricardo Martinez to be the new U.S. District Court Judge for the Western Washington District. I met with Magistrate Judge Martinez in early August and worked closely with the President and Senator Cantwell to select a nominee. Judge Martinez embodies the type of community-oriented, even-handed solutions that are the mainstay of our judicial system. I support his swift confirmation.

TRANSPORTATION

Southwest Washington Transportation: On 8/13 in Vancouver, I held a field hearing to examine transportation issues in Southwest Washington and metropolitan Portland, including the I-5 Bridge, regional congestion relief and river traffic. Witnesses included former Senator Mark Hatfield and local transportation, business and labor leaders from Clark County and Portland. I'll use their input next month when I help develop the Senate's Transportation Appropriations bill.

ENVIRONMENT

Shoreline Trail: On 8/15, I joined with Mayor Scott Jepsen, Rep. Jay Inslee and others at the groundbreaking of a new section of the Interurban trail, a three-mile park and trail that will provide new recreation opportunities for the local community. I secured \$400,000 in the Senate for this project.

SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE

Seniors Forum: In Edmonds on 8/15, I held a forum with senior citizens at the South County Senior Center. We discussed the latest threats to Social Security and Medicare. I was joined by Max Richtman of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and by Mike Manley, who directs senior services for Snohomish County.

VETERANS

Recently, I've been fighting efforts by the Bush Administration to close veterans' healthcare centers in Washington State. This month, I visited two of these targeted facilities – the American Lake VA Medical Center in Tacoma (8/7) and the Vancouver VA Hospital (8/13). Last month, I secured a commitment from VA Secretary Anthony Principi that the American Lake Center would remain open. In Vancouver, I met with Mayor Pollard, veterans, VA employees, and county officials to discuss the potential closure of the Vancouver facility. The community is clearly united in its commitment to preserve the facility, and I will work to that do that in the Senate.

PORT SECURITY

Port of Quincy: On 8/4, I met with Port of Quincy officials to tour and discuss the future site of the Port of Quincy Multi-Modal project for which I have requested \$2 million in federal funding. The project includes a rail loop that will improve business conditions for existing agriculture businesses and provide the infrastructure to attract new businesses.

SAFE Boats: On 8/5, I toured the SAFE Boats facility in Port Orchard, which was recently awarded a \$145 million contract to build 700 response boats for the U.S. Coast Guard over the next seven years.

Port of Tacoma: On 8/14, I visited met with Port of Tacoma officials and maritime industry leaders on the implementation of Operation Safe Commerce and other port security efforts.

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