

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – March 3, 2008

Air Force's Decision to Outsource American Military Capabilities is Shocking, Disappointing

Last Friday (2/29), I stood with the men and women of Boeing in Everett as the Air Force announced that it would be outsourcing a \$40 billion contract to build aerial refueling tankers to the European company Airbus. Boeing workers were shocked, angry, and wanted answers – and so do I.

Awarding this critical military contract to Airbus, a company that is heavily subsidized by European governments, is a threat to our economic, military, and trade security. At a time when families are struggling and unemployment is rising at home, it is unacceptable that we are investing in European jobs instead of creating 44,000 new jobs here. At a time when we are engaged in two wars, we need to ask ourselves whether we should place war-fighting tools and technology in foreign hands. And as we continue to compete in a global market, we need to ask why we are giving \$40 billion to a company that our government has brought a World Trade Organization (WTO) illegal subsidies case against. – [Details](#)

In the days, weeks, and months ahead I will work relentlessly to get answers and will explore every option available to me to right this wrong.

On Monday, I sent a letter to Secretary Gates asking that the Air Force not delay in providing answers to Boeing as to why they were not chosen for this contract. - [Details](#)

["At Boeing, shock -- and then anger"](#) – Seattle PI

To denounce the Air Force's decision...

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By signing up, we will be able to keep you up-to-date with all the latest news and information as we move forward.

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Housing: \$130 Million in Grants will Help Families Facing Foreclosure

Last Tuesday (2/26), I held a press conference to announce \$130 million in grants that will be awarded to help families that are behind in their mortgages avoid foreclosure. The grants will go toward housing counseling programs in our state and across the country. Housing counseling is a valuable service that has provided homeowners with tools they didn't know they had to get out from under crippling debt.

[Details](#)

[Video](#) – I discuss housing counseling.

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Economy: Working to Improve Financial Literacy among Adults and Kids

When I talk to the people who have been affected by the subprime mortgage crisis, I often hear them say that they misunderstood their mortgage or that they "wished they were taught more about finances in school." I agree that more needs to be done to give both adults and the next generation a greater understanding of the importance of personal finance. That is why last week I introduced a bill that will revamp financial literacy education in k-12 schools and our nation's colleges.

[Details](#)

[Video](#) – I discuss my new bill.

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