

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – November 20, 2006

My New Position in the Senate Leadership

A Big Win for Washington State

Last Monday my fellow Democratic Senators elected me to be part of the four-person team that will lead our Caucus in the 110th Congress. I am honored that my colleagues supported me, and that they have placed their confidence in my ability to help move our priorities forward.

My new position, Conference Secretary, means that I will help develop the majority's agenda and will help move legislation on the Senate floor.

For years, I've been frustrated that the issues we care about in Washington state have been ignored in Washington, D.C. With this new position and Democrats in the majority, I'll be at the table helping to set the agenda for the full Senate. That means Washington state will also have a seat at the table.

Make no mistake – there are serious challenges ahead and the budget will be tight, but I am honored to have the opportunity to be a stronger voice to fight for the people I am so proud to represent in Washington state. My new position will take effect when the 110th Congress convenes in January 2007.

To view a picture of the announcement of our leadership team visit:
<http://murray.senate.gov/photos/display.cfm?id=265854>

Aerospace: Updated WTO Case Filed Against the European Union

On Tuesday, the United States Trade Representative filed suit against the European Union for providing Airbus and its parent company EADS illegal with the subsidies that hurt American jobs. The suit was filed at the World Trade Organization. I fully support the filing of this case, and I hope that Airbus will begin to heed calls to stop utilizing these subsidies.

The filing of this case by the United States shows the world that we are serious about holding Europe accountable for its trade-distorting launch aid. We've sent a clear message that we will not tolerate another round of subsidies that kill American jobs.

As Airbus gets closer to launching the A350 airliner, I hope it will take the lesson of this action to heart, stop the subsidies, return to the negotiating table and help restore a level-playing field to the commercial aerospace industry.

To sign up for updates on my work on Aerospace please visit:
<http://murray.senate.gov/updates/>

On the Road in Our State (Part II)

I spent the month of October speaking with residents about local concerns in their communities, hearing from leaders about what they need from the federal government, and going over the priorities I am fighting for back in Washington, D.C. In doing so I got to travel all across our

great state, and I got to take part in events on everything from education, to economic development, to helping our veterans. All along the way I got to interact with Washington state residents who are passionate about the issues facing our state and country. Listed below is a small sampling of some of the events from the second leg of my tour.

RailEx: A Valuable New Connection for WA Farmers—WALLA WALLA COUNTY

On Thursday October 26th I was the keynote speaker at the dedication of the new RailEx facility in Wallula. RailEx is a dedicated method of moving Washington produce quickly to the East Coast aboard trains with state of the art refrigeration compartments and other unique shipping advances. I have long been an ardent supporter of this effort which will help move our state's produce to market more effectively. I have also secured \$1.5 million in federal funding for the rail loop.

Tri-Cities Community Leaders Roundtable – BENTON COUNTY

Also on October 26th, I got a chance to convene a panel of officials from the Tri-Cities to hear their top priorities on topics such as transportation, economic development, law enforcement, infrastructure, housing and other issues. This listening session allows me to continue my work securing federal support for the Tri-Cities. I heard from the Mayors of Kennewick and Richland, as well as the Pasco City Manager. I also heard from representatives of area ports, tourism officials, and important local associations including TRIDEC and the TriCity Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Hearing the Needs of Area Tribes – CLALLAM COUNTY

On Monday October 30th I met with representatives of 11 tribes in the Olympic Peninsula region to hear about their priorities on issues such as healthcare, education, housing, transportation, and economic development. I held the forum in order to get a better understanding of the challenges tribes in the region are facing and how I can be helpful at the federal level.

Responding to the Needs of Our Veterans –CLALLAM COUNTY

In Clallam County I spoke to Peninsula veterans about my efforts to help them get easier access to VA healthcare. Last November, I met with veterans in Port Angeles and heard about the long trips they face to see a VA doctor in Seattle. Since then, I have been using my position on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to boost funding for veterans healthcare.

Working to Improve Head Start – KITSAP COUNTY

On October Wednesday October 25th I heard from a panel of Head Start parents, teachers, staff, policy council members and advocates about the Head Start program in Kitsap County. I am working to update the law so it meets the needs facing our communities today.

Capitol Hill Christmas Tree to Come from Washington state

I am proud to announce that this year the official Capitol Christmas tree is coming to Washington D.C. from our great state. The tree will be lit in a ceremony on December 6th at 5pm. The tree originated in the Olympic National Forest and is currently in transit. To monitor the tree's travel to our nation's capitol live visit:

<http://www.skybitz.com/index.jsp#> or to learn more visit:
<http://www.capitolchristmastree2006.org/>

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