

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – May 28, 2004

White House Plans Massive Budget Cuts After Election

On Thursday, we learned that the Bush White House plans to dramatically cut funding for Washington state priorities after the November presidential election. The plan, outlined in an internal White House memo, calls for massive cuts in everything from veterans services and homeland security to healthcare and education. Further, details of those cuts would not be made public until after the election.

According to news reports, starting in Fiscal Year 2006 the Bush Administration would cut homeland security by \$1 billion, education by \$1.5 billion, veterans services by \$910 million, the National Institutes of Health by \$600 million, and Head Start by \$177 million, among other cuts.

We're not just talking about programs here. We're talking about people's lives. These cuts threaten our ability to meet our obligations to our veterans, our children, our seniors and our security. I will continue to use my position on the Senate Budget Committee to protect Washington state from these cuts. *For details, see:*

<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=222002>

Improving Air Traffic Control at SeaTac Airport

On Monday, I helped dedicate the new air traffic control tower at SeaTac Airport. The new tower is more than double the height of the old tower, giving air traffic controllers a much better view of operations throughout the airport. It also features new, high-tech air traffic control equipment to help our region safely accommodate increasing air travel. The new tower was also built to better withstand earthquakes. (The old tower was damaged during the 2001 Nisqually earthquake). On Monday we also dedicated the new Terminal Radar Approach Control facility. Over the years, I've secured more than \$75 million for the new tower and control facility. I've also secured federal commitments of almost \$160 million from the Transportation Security Administration to create an effective security system at SeaTac that will move both people and baggage more rapidly. After a few difficult years, Americans are once again returning to air travel in growing numbers. I'm making these investments to ensure that Washington's economy will benefit from the growth in air travel.

King County Gets Clean-Air, Gas-Saving Hybrid Buses

On Thursday, King County became the first in the nation to take delivery of a fleet of high-capacity, hybrid buses. The 213 new clean-air buses replace older buses that have reached the end of their service life. The new buses will produce 90 percent fewer emissions and will help our region meet the EPA's clean air standards. In addition, the hybrid technology will allow King County to save 750,000 gallons of fuel each year. King County plans to use the fuel and maintenance savings to expand transit service and further reduce congestion. I was proud to secure \$5 million for these 58-passenger buses and attended a delivery ceremony Thursday at Seahawks Stadium.

Progress in Snohomish County

Today (Friday) I joined with local leaders at the Lynnwood Transit Center, the hub of Community Transit's service in south Snohomish County. I was there to mark the progress on two projects: the Transit Center and the Direct Access Ramp, which is under construction. With 1,200 parking spaces, the Transit Center is among largest facilities of its kind in the state, making it easier for residents to use mass transit. The Direct Access Ramp will reduce the need for buses and other large vehicles to merge across the freeway and will also reduce congestion along side streets. I worked to secure \$14.5 million in 2002 and 2003 for transit express hubs throughout our state, including \$1.8 million specifically for the Lynnwood center and access ramp. The project also received \$3 million in federal grants. It's an example of how investing in our transportation infrastructure creates jobs, improves our productivity and enhances our quality of life.

Family Center Opens in Kent

Today (Friday) I helped open the new Kent Family Center. The two-story building includes four permanent Head Start classrooms, an expanded Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program run by the Seattle-King County Health Department, an adult learning and jobs center run by the Center for Career Alternatives, and a large community meeting space for East Hill residents. I was pleased to secure \$495,000 for this community center, and at today's ribbon cutting, we were treated to a performance by more than a dozen local pre-school students.

Boeing Tanker Program Delayed

On Tuesday, the Secretary of Defense asked for six additional months to study upgrading the Air Force's air refueling tankers. I am confident that the Secretary will reach the same conclusions that the Congress has reached: we need new tankers, we need them now, and Boeing offers the best product for taxpayers and the men and women of our armed forces. I am confident that at the end of the day America's military will get new tankers and that Boeing workers will build them.

Learn how Airbus is using subsidies and trade deals to hurt Washington state aerospace workers:

<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=221196>

New Medical Research Center

On Thursday, I spoke at the cornerstone ceremony for the new James Tower Life Sciences Building, a new research facility located on the Providence campus of the Swedish Medical Center. When completed, this new facility will help revitalize the Central District of Seattle by pumping more than \$50 million annually into the local economy.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

On Monday, Americans will gather to honor those who have served our nation and those who are serving us today. I will join with veterans and community leaders for a ceremony in Lakewood at the Mountain View Memorial Park. In Washington, D.C. this weekend, the new National World War II Memorial will be dedicated. *For more information, see:*

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address, visit: <http://murray.senate.gov/updates>