

# PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – June 17, 2005

## Funding WA Priorities

The Senate is currently creating its version of the Appropriations bill for 2006. This bill will fund government operations and important projects in states and communities across the country for next year. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I'm in a position to suggest the bill include funding for our state's most important priorities.

Last week, using my positions on both the Transportation and the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees, I secured funding for cleaner drinking water in Clark County, for maintenance of our state's native ecosystems, for preservation of Hanford Reach history, and for protection of our state's coastal marine environments.

This week, I continued my efforts to support our state as a federal appropriator. I'm proud that, even in such a tight budget year, I've been able to get money to fund the projects that are most important to our state. Funding for the following projects will now go to the full Senate Appropriations Committee for approval.

To read more about my work on the Appropriations bill, please visit my Web site at:

<http://murray.senate.gov>

### BALLARD LOCKS - \$2.1 MILLION

I added \$2.1 million for the Lake Washington Ship Canal lock system. This funding will help support maintenance and operations of the Ballard Locks and avoid threatened closures and service cutbacks.

The president's budget only included \$4.38 million for the Locks, which led local operators to begin discussions about drastically cutting operating hours, which currently run round-the-clock. The funding was not restored within the budget passed by the House of Representatives. My increase brought the total of next year's federal support for Ballard Locks to \$6.48 million.

I fought for this funding because I know that keeping the Ballard Locks running safely and efficiently is critical to our economic security in the Puget Sound and around the country.

### HANFORD CLEANUP - \$32 MILLION

I was able to increase funding for cleanup at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation by \$32 million. The President's budget – submitted to Congress in February – cut \$297 million from cleanup efforts at Hanford.

However, I believe we have a responsibility to fund projects that improve the health, vitality and economic strength of our communities. I am pleased to have been able to increase funding in the Senate for cleanup at Hanford under very trying budget constraints.

### PORTS OF CHINOOK, ILWACO - OVER \$2.1 MILLION

I secured \$2.15 million to fund dredging-related projects at the channels of the Ports of Chinook and Ilwaco -- \$1 million to dredge each port channel and \$150,000 to study siltation.

Due to the build up of silt in the bay, fishermen can only access the bay and its fish and crab processing plant during extremely high tides. By dredging the area, fishermen will have safe, reliable access to the channel and the processing plants.

These shallow-water ports are an important economic engine for rural communities. Improving the Columbia River will mean more jobs and economic development for Southwest Washington – and our entire region.

### COLUMBIA RIVER NAVIGATION - \$32 MILLION

I secured a total of \$32 million to help improve navigation and economic growth on the Columbia River. I secured \$15 million for the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project, and an increase of \$17 million for repair of jetties at the mouth of the Columbia.

While the Administration's budget has \$15 million for Channel Deepening, it did not fund jetty repair work at the mouth. These projects mean jobs and competitiveness for our entire region. I'm pleased that this investment will boost our economy in Southwest Washington.

### ELLIOT BAY SEAWALL REPLACEMENT - \$1.5 MILLION

I secured \$1.5 million to pay for replacement of the Elliot Bay Seawall. While neither the president's budget nor the House Appropriations bill included any funding for the project, I recognized the need to fund this important priority and fought to have the funding included in the Appropriations bill.

The nearly 70-year-old seawall has suffered from erosion and earthquake damage and is vulnerable to collapse. Any failure of the seawall would have a devastating impact on both the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the area's businesses and residents. That's why I've fought for \$870,000 over the past three years for the project – and why I felt it was so important to get money this year. This funding will help address a critical public safety, transportation, and economic priority.

## Protecting Women's Health Choices

This week, along with Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), I placed a hold on the nomination of Lester Crawford to head the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Senator Clinton and I have warned for the last three months that we would hold the nomination unless FDA made a long-overdue decision on over-the-counter status for the Plan B contraceptive.

The FDA must not put politics over sound science. What Senator Clinton and I seek is simple and fair – a yes-or-no decision on an application that was recommended for approval by the FDA's expert panel. FDA's decision is nearly six months overdue, according to federal guidelines. Despite assurances from Dr. Crawford that a decision has been "pending," we have not received a satisfactory answer. Therefore, we will continue to block Acting Commissioner Crawford's nomination until we receive a yes-or-no response on Plan B from FDA.

*Read a timeline, get more details on my fight for Plan B approval:*  
<http://www.murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=238939>

## Protecting American Aerospace Jobs

This week, as the Paris Air Show kicked off, I continued my efforts to assure a level playing field in the aerospace industry. Along with Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), I called for an end to European subsidies for aircraft manufacturer Airbus, and renewed my call for the Administration to move forward with a WTO trade case against the EU for their unfair, market-distorting tactics.

For the past year, I've been fighting to maintain American leadership in the aerospace industry and keep American aerospace jobs here at home. I have a three-pronged strategy when it comes to fighting European aircraft manufacturer Airbus's unfair competition. I'm working to:

- **Stop the subsidies** that European governments give Airbus;
- **Debunk Airbus's false claims** that it creates American jobs and that it is an American company; and
- **Show that Airbus does not care about American workers or American security.**

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