

# PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – December 3, 2007

**AROUND OUR STATE:** *Last week, I traveled throughout our state to share with residents some of what I have been working on in Washington D.C. and to listen to their concerns.*



## **Jobs: Getting Young People the Skills They Need to Keep our State Strong**

On Wednesday (11/28), I held a U.S. Senate hearing in Seattle to address an increasingly important issue in our region: getting young people the skills they need to fill critical family-wage jobs. The hearing brought together students, teachers, labor leaders, administrators and workforce experts to begin action to solve this problem that threatens our region's economic vitality. As we move further into a global economy, I will be working to spearhead efforts to expand our skilled workforce.

[Details](#)

["Students, state urged to fill the void in the work force"](#) – Seattle PI

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## **Yakima**

### **Veterans: Yakima Veterans Share their Stories and Struggles**

On Friday (11/30), I sat down with veterans in Yakima to learn more about the challenges and successes they have experienced with the VA system there. Veterans from the Iraq War, Vietnam, Desert Storm and World War II discussed how conditions are for them in the Yakima valley. I will use what I heard at this important meeting to relate the struggles of our state's veterans to General James Peake at his upcoming Senate confirmation hearing to become the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

["Vets sound off about VA at forum with Murray"](#) – Yakima Herald Republic

### **Agriculture: A Conversation with Yakima Farmers about this Year's Farm Bill**

On Friday (11/30), I joined with Yakima area farmers to discuss the critically important Farm Bill which the U.S. Congress must pass in order to provide support for our farmers. Much of our discussion centered on the specialty crops that dominate the agricultural economy in central Washington. I have worked with colleagues to ensure this Farm Bill included help for specialty crop farmers because of their unique struggles.

[Watch](#) video on the Farm Bill

[Read](#) more about specialty crops and how specialty crop farmers benefit from the Farm Bill

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## **Tri-Cities**

### **Preserving Jobs and History**

#### **Hanford B-Reactor**

On Thursday (11/29), I toured the Hanford Nuclear site and spoke out about the need to preserve the B-Reactor facility as a monument to our nation's history and the sacrifices of the local community. The B-Reactor was the first large scale plutonium production reactor ever built, and was a critical part of the Manhattan Project. While at Hanford, I also met with Department of Energy site managers, received briefings from contractors, and discussed national security programs currently underway at the Pacific Northwest National laboratory (PNNL).

#### **PNNL "Use Permit"**

While in the Tri-Cities, I held a bi-partisan press conference with congressman Doc Hastings to reiterate our support for PNNL's "Use Permit" that allows PNNL researchers to do critical private work using the PNNL labs at Hanford. The "Use-Permit" creates hundreds of jobs at PNNL and is vital to the economy of the area.

[Listen](#) to the press conference

["Hastings, Murray say they'll fight for PNNL"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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