

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – July 16, 2004

A Note To My Readers

This is the last email update I can send you until November because of the Senate's election-year rules. While I can't use this forum to share my work with you each week, I'll continue to fight for your priorities in the United States Senate. I'll continue to post my latest press releases on my Web site at <http://murray.senate.gov>. I'll keep your address on file, and will be back in touch in November.

- Patty

Defending American Aerospace Jobs

Yesterday, I took another step forward in my campaign to save America's aerospace jobs. In a major speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, I offered three new proposals to create fair competition in commercial aerospace.

As you know, back on May 5th, I delivered a major speech on the Senate floor calling for our government to wake up to Europe's assault on America's aerospace workers. I've been troubled by Europe's market-distorting actions for many years, and I've raised my concerns with other Senators, foreign leaders, and Administrations of both parties.

In yesterday's speech, I warned that unless we wake up to this threat, we will lose an industry that Americans created and that has brought innovation to every corner of our economy. We Americans led the first century of flight, but we might not even have a role in the second century if we keep sleepwalking down this dangerous road.

Additionally, I outlined three steps we must take: we should hold Europe accountable for its market-distorting actions; we should not reward EADS and Airbus for their deceptive, job-killing behavior; and we should implement recommendations from the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry.

That's why this week I took three important steps toward fair competition in aerospace. First, I called for our withdrawal from the 1992 US-EU Bilateral Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft, an outdated agreement that has hurt the American aerospace industry. I think our withdrawal would send a clear message to Europe that we are serious about ensuring fair competition in aerospace.

Second, I proposed a new approach to the ongoing battle over the "Buy America" provision in the pending Defense Authorization bill. In a letter to Defense Authorization conferees, I called for creation of fair trade criteria for foreign competition in defense contracting. Rather than protectionism or "blind" free trade, I proposed a "Third Way." I called for the creation of "rules of the road" for fair trade in commercial aerospace by calling for a study as part of the Defense Authorization bill. Under my plan, foreign contractors interested in competing in the U.S. Defense market would have to meet the standards of fair competition laid out in the study. In addition to spurring competition, my proposal would protect national security and protect taxpayers.

Third, I introduced S.Res.406 to create a Senate Select Committee on Aerospace. Passage of my bill would be the first major step toward ensuring American workers a level playing field.

This week I also spoke again with Commerce Secretary Don Evans, and with U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Zoellick, and I am pleased by how seriously they are approaching this challenge. They recognize, as I do, that

this issue cuts to the heart of our economy. These are high-skill, high-wage jobs, and I'm going to keep working so American workers have a fighting chance to keep them.

Listen to my aerospace speech:

<http://murray.senate.gov/video/040715-wilson.mp3>

Get a Web version of the speech:

<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=223977>

Supporting WA Military Construction

I'm so proud that this week I was able to secure more than \$165 million in construction projects for Washington state military bases in the Fiscal Year 2005 Military Construction Appropriations bill. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I voted for the Senate bill at a meeting of the committee. This bill will fund key projects that support thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen – and their families – based in Washington state. These projects will provide modern, safe, and efficient facilities for our military to work and train, and several of the projects will target improvement of quality of life for our men and women in uniform and their families.

The projects include the following:

- **Fort Lewis Military Reservation** - Barracks Complex
\$48 million
- **Camp Murray** - Homeland Security and Defense Instructor Support Complex - \$1.4 million
- **Fairchild Air Force Base** - Family Housing Privatization
\$17.1 million
- **Bremerton Naval Complex** - Bachelor Enlisted Quarters
\$34.1 million
- **Puget Sound Naval Shipyard** - Aircraft Carrier Maintenance Complex - \$20.3 million
- **Bangor Submarine Base** - Process and Storage Complex
\$35.8 million

Get a detailed list of these projects:

<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=224015>

Fighting for Healthcare for the Uninsured

On Thursday, I continued my efforts to expand the Health Community Access Program (CAP) by vigorously questioning Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson in a hearing before the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee. I've long been an advocate for the program, and at the hearing I challenged the Administration's decision to take \$20 million from it.

This year, I was able to get our state a \$1.3 million planning and research grant from the federal government, and I told Secretary Thompson at the hearing that the \$20 million taken from the CAP program will jeopardize the ability of grantees in Washington state to meet the needs of the uninsured. These programs help combat disease and are crucial to thousands of uninsured Americans. At the hearing, I pointed out that the cut has kept the CAP program from expanding, and that it should be the objective of Congress and the Administration to grow this extremely successful, bipartisan program – not shrink it.

The Community Access Program provides funds for efforts to identify local challenges and develop solutions. More than 22 Washington counties are using this flexible, bottom-up approach to meet local needs. I've seen firsthand how effective these programs are, but Secretary Thompson stated repeatedly that CAP has not been effective. So, at the hearing, I invited him to Washington state to see just how much of a difference CAP is making in Americans' lives. He accepted the invitation, and I look forward to showing him Washington's CAP grantees soon.

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