

# ***PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW***

**U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – May, 28<sup>th</sup> 2008**

## **Wild Sky Becomes Law**

After 6 years of working Wild Sky Wilderness through the legislative process, I joined with U.S. Representative Rick Larsen recently to celebrate the final step in the process – Presidential signing. President Bush signed Wild Sky Wilderness into law earlier this month, creating the first new wilderness area in the state of Washington in over twenty years. - [Details](#)

[Video](#) - I discuss the long, difficult road to this moment.

["Bush signs Wild Sky into law"](#) – Everett Herald  
["Bush signs bill to create Wild Sky"](#) – AP

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## **Farm Bill: Meaningful and Substantial Help for Washington State Farmers**

Last Thursday (5/22), I voted with a bi-partisan majority of my colleagues in the Senate to override the President's veto and make the Farm Bill law. The Farm Bill invests in jobs, ensures more families put a nutritious meal on their table, and for the first time provides meaningful support for our fruit and vegetable growers in Washington state. – [More](#) | [Video](#) | [Summary](#) of what the Farm Bill does for Washington state.

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## **Emergency Spending: Bill Includes Help for Our State's Roads, Fishermen, Economy; Bush Threatens Veto**

Last Thursday (5/22), I helped to pass a bill in the Senate that includes funding for some of our state's most urgent problems including Hanford clean-up, salmon shortages, road damage, rural school funding, and law enforcement assistance. Unfortunately, President Bush has threatened to veto the bill. – [More](#)

[Read](#) about the funding for Washington state included in this bill.

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## **Tankers: Questions on Added Costs, Lost Jobs, and National Security Go Unanswered**

Last week, I questioned Defense Secretary Robert Gates about many of the outstanding questions I have over the Pentagon's decision to outsource a \$35 billion air tanker refueling contract to Airbus - a foreign-owned and subsidized company with an unproven product. Since the decision was made in February, defense officials from Secretary Gates, to the Pentagon's Comptroller, to National Guard and Reserve commanders have been unable to answer questions about how the decision could weaken the U.S. aerospace industry, threaten national security, mean significant cost overruns, and result in a less safe plane for our warfighters. – [More](#) | [Listen](#) to my questioning of Secretary Gates.

["Airbus contract questions deserve some answers"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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## **Women Veterans: Preparing the VA for New Needs of Women Veterans**

Last week, I discussed [my bill](#) to prepare the VA for the influx of women veterans set to utilize VA services during a hearing of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. My bill authorizes programs to improve care for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), increase research on the current barriers to care, expand women veterans staff positions, establish a pilot program to reimburse child care services for qualified veterans, and improve counseling services. It is projected that the number of female veterans who use the VA system will double in the next five years, making female veterans one of the fastest growing subgroups of veterans. - [Details](#)

["Women of the Wars: Is VA is ready for surge of women vets?"](#) – Tacoma News Tribune

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