

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – March 30, 2009

Investing in Washington State: Addressing Local Needs, Creating Local Jobs

Earlier this month, I helped pass vitally important spending legislation that includes millions in funding for projects throughout Washington state. At a critical time, the projects in the bill will help to create and protect jobs in our state and address the needs of many communities. With our economy ailing, I believe it's important to bring federal funding back to Washington state to invest in job-creating projects in our own backyard.

To find specific information on funding secured for projects in your area click a regional or issue link below:

Pierce County King County Snohomish County Whatcom County Southwest Washington Olympia	Eastern Washington Central Washington Tri-Cities Walla Walla Olympic Peninsula	Salmon Northern Border Hanford/PNNL
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Financial Literacy: Introduction of the Financial and Economic Literacy Improvement Act of 2009

Earlier this month, I introduced legislation that would support efforts to provide financial literacy education to Americans of all ages in our schools and colleges. This bill would provide \$250 million in annual grants to states to support the teaching of financial literacy in K-12 and 2- and 4-year colleges. I strongly believe that if we intend to avoid the mistakes that led to this crisis, we have to give our students the knowledge and skills necessary to make sound financial decisions. In January, after President Obama took the oath of office he called for an era of personal responsibility. This bill helps Americans to usher in that era. – [Details](#)

["Bill would help schools, nonprofits teach financial literacy"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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Media: The Closing of the Seattle PI After 146 Years

On March 17th, on its last day of publication, I took to the floor of the Senate to speak about the closing of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. For generations, journalists have been the ones to break the hard stories and root out corruption in government. It is clear by the closing of the PI and newspaper cutbacks throughout the country that our media is facing a crisis. I'm deeply saddened by the closing of the PI after 146 years and I will miss it greatly. – [Details](#) | [Listen](#) to my speech.

["Fewer newspapers means weaker democracy, Murray tells Senate"](#) – The Bellingham Herald

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AIG: Give Up Your Bonuses or We Will Take Them

On March 19th, I joined nine other Senators to send a letter to AIG executives warning them to either give up their bonuses or prepare for Congress to tax them to no value. I firmly believe that the use of taxpayer-funded rescue dollars to give lavish bonuses to the very executives who caused many of the problems in our finance system is indefensible. – [Details](#)

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Veterans: Over \$23 Million to Repair and Renovate Washington State Veterans Facilities in Recovery Act

On March 20th, I announced that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities in Washington state will receive over \$23 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The funding is part of \$1.2 billion for VA hospital and medical facility construction and improvements, improvements at VA national cemeteries, and long-term care facilities for veterans. This funding is a step in the right direction to offering our veterans the care they need and deserve. – [Details](#)

["Murray comes through for Washington's veterans"](#) – Tri-City Herald

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