

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – April 29, 2009

Environment and Jobs: Ensuring our Workers have Green Job Skills

Last Tuesday, I chaired a hearing that focused on the need to train workers with the skills needed to fill jobs in the emerging green economy. During the hearing, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis discussed how the Department of Labor plans to spend the \$500 million in competitive grants for green job worker training that I helped to secure in the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The hearing also included testimony from the CEO of a Washington state leader in green building, the President of Shoreline Community College and a former student from their pioneering solar panel installation training program. - [Details](#)

[LISTEN](#) to my opening statement.

[WATCH](#) the entire hearing.

["Murray explores plan for green jobs"](#) – Bellingham Herald

Investing in our Security: Securing Washington's Ports, Borders and Airports

Last week, I announced that almost \$50 million in funding has been made available in Washington state for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Transportation Security Administration. As a senior member of the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee, I worked to ensure that investments in our nation's security were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding will provide a boost to our economy while ensuring that our state remains secure. - [Details](#)

Veterans: Expanding Health Care to our Women Veterans

Last week, I spoke at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing to support my legislation, the [Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act](#). This bill will assess, expand, and improve the VA's health care services for our women veterans. During the hearing, I questioned Dr. Gerald Cross, the Department of Veterans' Affairs Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Health, about the VA's position on meeting the unique health needs of the growing number of women veterans. - [Details](#)

Housing: Nomination of Ron Sims to the Department of Housing and Urban Development

Last Thursday, I introduced King County Executive Ron Sims at his nomination hearing before the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. Ron Sims has been nominated by President Obama to serve as Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ron's dedication to public service and the families of King County gives me no doubt that he is the right man to help lead efforts to lift our housing market.

[READ](#) my opening statement.

["Senate holds hearing on Sims for HUD post"](#) – Seattle Times

Human Rights: Resolution to Condemn Afghan Marital Rape Law

Last week, I joined a bipartisan group of women lawmakers to introduce a resolution condemning the Afghan marital rape law. My colleagues and I strongly feel that this law strips these women of their human rights and should not be tolerated. - [READ](#) the resolution.

Veterans: New Outpatient Clinic Will Serve 70,000

Last Wednesday, I spoke at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to urge my colleagues to authorize the construction of a new outpatient clinic at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla. The VA approved the funding and the design of the clinic last November and now the project must be authorized by the committee. Once completed, the clinic will serve the needs of nearly 70,000 area veterans. - [Details](#)

["Senator Murray speaks to save Walla Walla VA Medical Center"](#) – KVEW TV