

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – June 17th, 2009

PIPELINE SAFETY: Remembering the Bellingham Tragedy

This past week marked the 10th anniversary of the Bellingham pipeline explosion. To commemorate this tragedy, which claimed the lives of three young Washingtonians, I gave a speech on the floor of the Senate and introduced a resolution to have June 10th recognized as National Pipeline Safety Day. I spoke on the Senate floor about the need to remain vigilant in our efforts, and I hope that National Pipeline Safety Day will serve each year as a reminder of the work that must continually be done to keep Americans safe. – [Details](#)

[WATCH](#) or [LISTEN](#) to my speech | [LEARN](#) more about my pipeline safety efforts

["Bellingham pipeline accident remembered with national proclamation"](#) – The Seattle Times

HEALTH CARE: Unveiling A Major Component of Plans to Reform Our Nation's Broken Health Care System

Last week, along with other Democratic members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, I announced the introduction of the [Affordable Health Choices Act](#) – a main component of the effort to reform our nation's health care system. The Affordable Health Choices Act reduces costs for families, businesses and government; protects people's choice of doctors, hospitals and insurance plans; and assures affordable, high-quality healthcare for every American. The bill is a major step forward in reforming our health care system and reducing skyrocketing health care costs. – [Details](#)

SMOKING PREVENTION: Senate Gives FDA Power to Regulate Tobacco, Protect Children

Last Thursday, I was proud to vote for the passage of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate tobacco products for the first time. This groundbreaking legislation will protect families and consumers and give the FDA the tools to help smokers overcome their addictions. Thanks to this bill, the FDA will now have the legal authority to prevent the sale of tobacco products to youth, stop misrepresentation of tobacco products, and remove hazardous ingredients from cigarettes. – [Details](#)

["Senate strikes historic blow against smoking"](#) – The Seattle Times

CELEBRATING THE PROMOTION OF ONE OF WASHINGTON'S OWN

Last week, I was honored to preside over the promotion ceremony of Lt. Colonel Sean Scott, a decorated army officer and Spokane native. I led Lt. Col. Scott in reciting the oath of office and presented him with the insignia that represents his new rank of Colonel. It was a true privilege to be able to help recognize the dedication Col. Scott and his family have shown to our country, and I thank him for his many years of service. – [Details](#)

TANKERS: Secretary Gates Confirms Opposition to Split-Buy

Last Tuesday, I questioned Secretary of Defense Robert Gates about his position on splitting the aerial refueling tanker competition between two aerospace companies and the importance of maintaining a strong industrial base. Secretary Gates affirmed that he will continue to oppose a split-buy contract and pledged further efforts to conduct a fair and open contract competition for building the next generation of refueling tankers. – [Details](#)

[WATCH](#) the hearing | [LISTEN](#) to me question Secretary Gates

RECOVERY: Tracking our State's Funding

So far, Washington state has received more than \$2.2 billion in funding from the Economic Recovery Act. Last week, I announced additional funding for programs in our state. Click on the link below to learn more about funding awarded to the state this week.

[Investing in Washington State's Airports](#)

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