

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – April, 1st 2008

AROUND OUR STATE

I spent the last two weeks traveling throughout our state speaking to Washington residents about their concerns, and the many challenges we face as a state and a country. I heard from homeowners struggling to stay above water, veterans who need better access to care, and community leaders that need additional federal support. I will use all that I have heard and shared to continue to fight for our state in Washington D.C. during these very challenging times.

Rallying Against the Tanker Decision

On March 19, I joined Boeing workers and their families as well as Governor Christine Gregoire, Congressman Rick Larsen, and leaders from the labor community to protest the Air Force's misguided decision to award a \$40 billion tanker refueling contract to the European company Airbus.



Over 500 workers crowded into the Machinists Hall in Everett and it was one of the loudest, most energized rallies that I have ever attended. You could feel the passion and the pride that our 767 team has for their tanker. I spoke with dozens of workers, all echoing the same message: We have the better tanker, we have proven we can provide a quality product, let us do our job. I agree with

them, and will continue working to make sure that in the end we make the right choice for the tanker contract.

["Boeing Machinists say tanker decision is 'outsourcing our future'"](#) – Everett Herald

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Cowlitz County – Hearing from our Veterans

On Monday, March 17th, I led a roundtable discussion with Southwest Washington veterans to hear about the unique challenges they face. I heard from area residents that struggle to access care and about the serious problem of veteran's homelessness in the area. As a senior member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will continue to work to highlight the first-hand experiences I heard and will fight for more federal funding to support veterans programs and facilities to help deal with these issues.

["Sen. Murray hears veterans' concerns during local stop"](#) – Longview Daily News

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Southwest Washington and Spokane – Housing

As we all know, the housing crisis is affecting more and more Washington state residents every day. Over the last two weeks, I have held meetings in Southwest Washington and Spokane with experts from housing authorities, banks, mortgage companies, homebuilders, realtors and individuals who have been personally affected by the mortgage crisis. This issue is the top priority of Democrats in Washington right now and we will be working to bring relief to struggling homeowners so that they can keep their homes.

["Murray hears housing woes"](#) – The Columbian

["Foreclosure forum puts face on crisis"](#) – Spokesman Review

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Skagit County – Emergency Responders

On Wednesday, March 26th, I was in Skagit County to discuss painful cuts proposed by President Bush to a grant program that goes to train and support first responders.

["Sen. Murray hears from emergency workers"](#) – Skagit Valley Herald

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Island County – Listening to Housing and Transportation Concerns

On March 26th, I also met with a panel of leaders from Island County to hear about their top priorities for housing, infrastructure, law enforcement, economic development, and other issues.

["Island leaders plead with senator for housing help"](#) – Whidbey News Times

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