

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – February 2, 2010

High Speed Rail: A Major Investment in Getting People and Goods Moving in Our State

On Thursday, I announced that Washington state will receive \$590 million in federal funding for high speed rail upgrades in the Pacific Northwest Cascades corridor. The funding is part of a major high-speed rail initiative that, as Chairman of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I helped to include in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Since last year, when the Pacific Northwest was named one of the 10 potential regions to receive funds for high speed rail, I have worked with U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to build support for states like ours where the groundwork for high speed rail lines has been underway and where improvements would help provide an alternative to congested roadways and spur economic activity. – [Details](#)

["Washington to get \\$590 million for high-speed rail improvements"](#) – Seattle Times

["Wash., Oregon to get \\$590 M for high-speed rail"](#) – Associated Press

State of the Union: Top Priority is Getting Our Economy Back on Track

On Wednesday, President Obama spoke directly to the American people about creating jobs, getting our economy back on track, moving forward with health insurance reform, holding big Wall Street accountable, and protecting our nation. The President's first State of the Union speech came at a critical time, with many across our state and nation anxious about the direction of the economy and our country.

[Read my reaction](#) to President Obama's speech.

Agriculture: Working for our State's Wheat Growers



Last Tuesday, I was honored to receive the Washington Association of Wheat Growers' "Legislator of the Year" award for my efforts to advance Washington's wheat industry. The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), which represents wheat farmers throughout our state, is a non-profit group dedicated to the enrichment of the Washington wheat industry. I will continue to work to provide our agricultural community with the tools and resources they need to succeed in this competitive global market. – [Details](#)

A Qualified and Respected Judge Confirmed to Eastern Washington Bench

Last Monday, I delivered a speech on the Senate floor urging my colleagues to support Gonzaga Law Professor Rosanna Peterson to be the next District Court judge for the Eastern District of Washington State. In the speech, I praised Peterson's work ethic, professionalism, and understanding of the law. After the speech, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Judge Peterson as the first woman to serve on Eastern District bench. Peterson's nomination was the product of the bipartisan selection commission I worked to help create in our state.

[Details](#) | [Listen](#) to my speech

[Peterson confirmed to federal bench](#) – Spokesman Review

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