

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Port Orchard Press Event

July 6th, 2023

Sen. Cantwell Remarks

[\[AUDIO\]](#) [\[VIDEO\]](#)

Sen. Cantwell: Derek, great to be in your congressional district. And because I'm here I want you all to know how hard Derek works for you in the United States Congress.

I know you probably get a sense of that because you see him, but I see him in the halls back there and he pulled off a major victory as part of the CHIPS and Science Bill when he wrote and authorized a section called Recompete, which is about how do places in the state and in the nation [like those] that once had stronger economies get the help and support to be competitive with new sectors of our economy in the future.

And because I was on the other side in the Senate and had to negotiate with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it wasn't always easy. But because Derrick had built strong allies in the House of Representatives, that piece of legislation became law, and it has [\$1 billion] put behind it and I am sure this congressional district will benefit in the future from his hard work.

Now, I say that because all of these are really about economic development strategy. So, I hope he really is successful here on this because we have to show the nation we can grow new economies, and that there are new opportunities.

So, I want to thank Secretary Buttigieg for being here, because he came to Washington last year with Senator Murray and myself and we talked about building the economy of Central Washington by making infrastructure investment in what was called the apple corridor to expand freight capacity.

Well Secretary Buttigieg when it comes to communities along Puget Sound, when you're talking about infrastructure, you've got to build infrastructure on the water. And that is what these beautiful communities like Port Orchard, like Bremerton, represent. A great quality of life and some economic development opportunity with good jobs if we make the right investments.

So Senator Murray and I have been hard at work on infrastructure investment in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

I want to highlight just one thing. The Port of Bremerton did in 2021 tried to get resources including this marina, and we weren't successful. So that was irritating, I hope the port thinks so, it was a little irritating. That was irritating.

So, what we did is we basically said let's increase the amount of money in the RAISE program. Patty is very familiar with this program because she's helped boost it over a period of time.

But literally in the Commerce Committee we more than doubled the amount that was in the RAISE program. So we made sure that more local governments could apply for the funds and we put criteria in place like improving mobility, and basically encouraging economic development, encouraging safety and resiliency.

And I don't think anything says resiliency more than having the breakwater and making sure that we have an infrastructure that can support this foot traffic and support us when we have critical storms or critical challenges to make sure that we can continue to ferry people on foot traffic and plan for the future.

So I just want to congratulate everybody here today on a great economic development application. We think that this driver of Port Orchard in Kitsap County contributes \$14 million annually and helps us support more than 66 jobs just by making these infrastructure investments.

So thanks to everyone here at the port, at the county, at the cities, for doing the hard work including transit to make these improvements a reality. You are really giving people here a really, really great quality of life. And still giving them economic opportunities to boot.

So now I will introduce my partner in all of this, who I try to authorize she does a great job of appropriating and we're so glad she's at that helm where she gets to see everything in appropriations. And she is a dear and effective colleague, Senator Patty Murray.