

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Hilda Solis
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis,

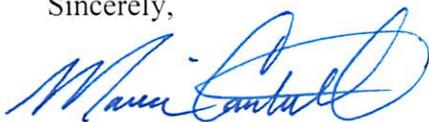
We are writing to express our strong support for “Air Washington” in its application for grant funding under the Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program. “Air Washington” is a consortium of thirteen Community and Technical Colleges across Washington State and several aerospace training facilities, including the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing and the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

“Air Washington” is requesting \$20 million in order to deliver aerospace training in the following areas: Avionics and Electronics, Aircraft Maintenance, Aircraft Assembly, Composites, Advanced Manufacturing, and AS9100 certification, all of which are areas identified as critical by the aerospace industry. These particular fields encompass 32% of Washington State’s skilled aerospace workforce, which requires mid-level certification or two-year degree training options. Through “Air Washington” and its collaboration with industry partners and Workforce Development Councils, the industry’s displaced workers and novices will be indentified, recruited, trained, and ultimately employed.

It is crucial that Washington State remains in the forefront of the growing aerospace industry, which in twenty years, will be worth an estimated \$3.6T worldwide. It must provide training and educational opportunities in order to support the development of a skilled workforce and as well as to meet the needs of the six-hundred aerospace related firms located within the state. The aviation industry is dynamic and changing rapidly Therefore, in order to respond to this dynamism and to keep its workforce competitive in the global market, Washington State must pay close attention to the industry’s changes.

“Air Washington” understands the importance of ensuring that Washington State’s workforce is prepared for the growing market of the aerospace industry over the next twenty years. We ask that you give its application your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator