

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

IAM District 751 Everett Union Hall Grand Opening

June 6, 2025

Sen. Cantwell Remarks

[AUDIO]

Sen. Cantwell: Thank you so much, and thank you for inviting me to speak at this very, very august occasion. I love the statues outside, because it's not long ago that we had to fight another fight, and it reminds us what victories really do bring.

So I want to thank the IAM president, Brian Bryant, for being here. You're not going to be a painter, but you're going to keep helping lead the union. So we appreciate that. I want to thank Bobby Martinez, also, the Vice President, for venturing out. And I also just want to thank all the machinists that are here today who are doing amazing work.

I so appreciate President Jon Holden and everything he did. I guarantee you we would not have seen the wage increase without his leadership. So thank him for that. I love working with him on so many issues, I can't tell you how many times we have to talk about things. And he's reachable, he's dedicated, and he's continuing to lead this important organization.

And I want to thank Adam Grim too for his leadership at the Machinists Institute. Thank you, Adam. Thank you very much.

So, I'm glad these two international leaders are here today to witness this, because this is such a big moment in machinists -- what do we want to call it? America's need to skill and train machinists. Literally, they say that by 2030 that we may have a shortfall of over 2 million machinists. Can you imagine? America's competitiveness is at stake, and we may have a shortage of machinists.

So 751 is answering the call, not just with this new facility, but in integrating the Machinists Institute to train and skill and attract people by just showing them you could come and try these skills and be part of answering the call for America.

We want to thank everybody that is here to celebrate this brand new, amazing building, and for creating the new hub that the facility creates. Wasn't that some really good news on the MAX 10 line coming back to Everett, Washington, the first time since 2016? It shows the company knows, if you want to build this plane, build it with the best machinists in the country, and that's here in Everett Washington.

So now, we've got to get the machinists, and that is why this building and the Machinists Institute, with a training capacity of over 700 machinists to be trained right here, is such a great facility. And if you listen to Adam and others, they're telling you, we're expediting training. We are hurrying to get people in the door, get them skilled, the best technology, and get them out into the field.

So this flagship facility of 20,000 square feet in labs and classrooms are going to help us do that right here. But 751 and the Machinists Institute are also doing this in many places across our state and across the United States. They're helping us find the next career machinists, and they're helping us get higher pay and gain promotions.

Last year alone, the Machinists Institute served 750 incumbent workers and union members, supported 22 apprenticeships and trained 270 pre-trained, pre-apprenticed students. So just imagine what we can do now with this new facility. You're going to put that on steroids.

I want you to know I'm working hard in Washington, DC. We passed an FAA bill. We said that there would be a manufacturer's technical worker program where we would give money to organizations, \$20 million so they can apply. We made sure that the Machinists Institute would be one of the people that could apply for that money. So we hope to help at a federal level. And we're working hard with a request for \$2.5 million to fund the child care options that will help on all three shifts, give people the opportunities to have child care support so we can put people to work.

And we're working with the Machinists Institute, and you all, they're literally a board member of the Spokane Aerospace Tech Hub, an organization that is literally trying to figure out the next technology to compete for those 40,000 planes that have to be built nationwide, and literally could take the manufacturing from 40 planes a month to 100 planes a month. The only way we're going to figure that out is working together, and the fact that the Machinists Institute was the first person on the ground in the building already training and skilling people, shows you that this union understands the importance of what we need to do.

So thank you all very much for inviting me today. Congratulations to everybody for this long time in coming -- I will always remember that old building, Jon. I mean, we had a lot of good times in that old building. But in this building, we're going to go towards the future. 751 is leading the nation in showing us how to get it done. Let's make sure we capture for America the huge aerospace economic opportunity that is in the world today.

Thank you all very much.