

## US Senator Maria Cantwell

### MSNBC Interview

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

[\[VIDEO\]](#)

**Jonathan Lemire:** To Washington now, the National Transportation Safety Board is holding its final day of hearings into the deadly midair collision between a U.S. Army helicopter and a passenger plane. That crash happened back in January near Reagan National Airport. Yesterday, officials from the FAA acknowledged that the air traffic controller working that evening, should have notified the aircraft about the helicopter, but failed to do so. Let's bring in Democratic Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington state. She is the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Senator, thank you for joining us this morning. What did you learn yesterday from this hearing? What do you hope to continue to learn today?

**Sen. Cantwell:** Well, we're putting more details to the information that the NTSB has gathered about the accident, and what it all points to is that the FAA needs to listen to the air traffic controllers and the data that was there and available, and they need to lead on better safety regimes. We cannot have this kind of transportation corridor congested with both military and commercial aviation space and allowing for just a few 100 feet to be the determinant of whether people are going to be able to make that work effectively. We owe it to the families to improve the FAA oversight of this system.

**Lemire:** And Senator indeed, looking forward, what are some changes you hope to make, particularly, as you mentioned there, the congestion in the air space around [Reagan] National Airport and the nation's capital.

**Sen. Cantwell:** Well, I don't know that this exemption that was given to the military to fly in this corridor was thought out, but certainly once data was provided where [15,000] near misses happened, or even the air traffic controllers were suggesting that they did not like this route and didn't think it worked, then someone at the FAA should have taken that data and information, and made a change. And so, we need to have the aggressive responsibility with the FAA to monitor this kind of information, not just at [Reagan] National, but now at other airports where there might be a high level of interaction between corridors with military involvement and commercial air space.

**Rev. Al Sharpton:** Senator, I saw in the package earlier that you were one that was raising serious questions about the tariffs, and many of us have concerns about how this is going to affect people on the ground, American citizens that will have to pay higher prices.

Explain to us how you see the tariffs at this point and what can be done to try and stop the President from what appears to be something that could be detrimental to the average American.

**Sen. Cantwell:** Well, Reverend Sharpton, August 1<sup>st</sup> may be the day that the fallacy that somehow this administration was going to be about lowering prices comes to reality because this is not the kind of activity that's going to lower prices on Americans. In fact, tariffs literally are an increase on the cost of Americans for household goods, for food, for small businesses, for manufacturers, and now we're starting to see that in the economic data. So, there's no relief. August 1<sup>st</sup> will be the date in which Americans know that they're not serious about their affordability issue. In fact, they are celebrating in all of these deals-- that are handshake deals, by the way, we need to see the details-- that the price for Americans is going to go up.

So, that is why I am adamant that, first of all, no king or president has this authority. They do not have this authority. They do not have the authority to raise revenue on their constituents. And that is what the responsibilities in the Constitution were all about in protecting Americans from this kind of activity.

So, Congress should rein in this power by passing the law that Senator Grassley and I have suggested: that all of this be reviewed and approved by Congress.

**Lemire:** And we just heard from a White House economic adviser, who is certainly short on details in terms of some of these trade deals. Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Democratic Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington state, thank you, Senator, for joining us this morning.

**Sen. Cantwell:** Thank you.