U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Remarks During Tour of Artemis Supplier Aerojet Rocketdyne

March 30, 2026

[VIDEO]

Sen. Cantwell: We're here because it's really an important week for the United States. The fact that Artemis II is launching in what is a return to the moon.

Washington state is playing a really big role. There's over 100 companies in our region. That's why the Mayor of Redmond calls it the Space District. But we are producing various products that make this mission successful.

Historically, this is the farthest the United States has gone, because we're going around the moon. Our mission here is to get this technology correct so that we can return and land and build a moon base. We are authorizing in the United States Senate, NASA Authorization that says, let's create a moon base, and this mission will determine whether we can successfully take that next stage to create that moon mission.

So all of these workers who have been perfecting this for years – so we were just at a company that was more of an engineering integrator, and here we are with basically the [spacecraft] thrusters – who have had this expertise for a long time.

So we're really proud that the state is playing such a big role in solving these space problems. Ultimately, Artemis is about returning to the moon and building a permanent moon base that can then be used for accelerating our travel to Mars. So a really, really big moment for the Pacific Northwest.

And I'm sure you'll be down there looking up, and we'll be looking at our TVs, and your kids will be cheering, and we'll be very excited to see the results of this. But I'm glad Administrator Isaacman basically got this going to this point to go ahead.