



Annual Accomplishments Report

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma
2015



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From the Desk of U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe

Dear friends,

When Republicans regained control of the Senate, we promised 2015 would be a year of working hard to revive regular order in the chamber. We promised to get Congress working again for the American people, and I promised to use my return to the gavel to address the concerns and meet the needs of Oklahomans back home. I am proud to say that we kept these commitments. One of most notable accomplishments in the Senate, which I had the privilege of authoring, was the FAST Act. First introduced in the Senate in June, I worked with both sides of the aisle on the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee to put forward the longest surface transportation reauthorization since 1998. Not only did it increase spending to modernize our nation's roads and bridges, but we also fully funded the bill without raising taxes. I also ensured Oklahomans's values were represented in this critical piece of legislation, which I go into more detail about on page 17.

Part of returning to regular order also meant getting Senate committees working again. In the EPW Committee, we held 39 hearings, including eight field hearings and passed 26 bills that were signed into law. We also confirmed seven nominees and published two oversight reports looking into the regulatory practices of the Obama administration at EPA. Most importantly, the committee sent three pieces of legislation to the Senate floor that allowed our chamber to vote to overturn President Obama's overreaching EPA regulations, to include the Waters of the U.S. rule and the Clean Power Plan.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, where I am the senior member, also held two to three hearings a week and successfully sent the National Defense Authorization Act to the president's desk to become law. While I was disappointed that the legislation had to take a \$5 billion cut to our military readiness and care for our troops, I believe it was better for Congress to set the priorities for our national security resources than to default to the president's agenda by doing nothing at all.

That is one thing 2015 will not be known for – doing nothing. Congress also ended the ban on exporting our nation's abundant oil resources, enacted the first long-term tax relief legislation after years of short-term extensions, made the first significant education reform since 2002 effectively ending Common Core, and passed the first bicameral budget since 2009 and the first balanced budget since 2001. This annual report will give you a glimpse at all that was accomplished this year on behalf of Oklahoma. I hope you will find this report helpful and informative.

With steadfast devotion to Oklahoma,



Chairman of Senate Environment and Public Works
Senior Member of Senate Armed Services Committee

2015 Awards & Recognitions

- AbilityOne Champion Award
- U.S. Chamber Spirit of Enterprise Award
- The National Job Corps Association Appreciation Award
- National Postal Mailhandlers Union Appreciation Award
- Medicare Advantage Champion Award
- Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. Champion Award
- National Retail Federation's Hero of Main Street Award
- The Tile Council of North America's Friend of the Tile Industry Award
- National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies' Benjamin Franklin Public Policy Award
- The Military Coalition's Award of Merit
- Porter Health Center & Muskogee Health Center Appreciation Award
- The Heritage Foundation's Political Leadership on Climate Change Award
- Transportation Revenues Used Strictly For Transportation's Guardian of Transportation Award
- American Logistics Association's Distinguished Service Award
- American Conservative Union's Award for Conservative Excellence
- National Rural Lenders Association's Congressional Leadership Award
- Contract Tower Congressional Leadership Award
- National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), Defender of America's Hunting Heritage Award

WELCOME

Sen. Jim Inhofe Inhofe is a strong supporter of adoption. He is committed to advocating on behalf of orphans and those seeking to adopt. This year Inhofe served as a member of the bi-partisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption, as he has for many years. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption assists American families with foreign adoption and highlights families that have opened their hearts and homes to adoption and the foster care system.

As a result of the 2014 Ebola outbreak, West African countries are experiencing an orphan crisis.

Though the disease has largely been contained, the wake of its impact will continue to have an effect on the next generation. To highlight this issue and promote the work Oklahomans are doing to aid these orphans firsthand, Inhofe authored S. Res. 155 which establishes May 2, 2015, as a day of recognition for Ebola Orphans. The Senate passed

the resolution by unanimous consent. On May 2, the *Oklahoman* published a piece by Inhofe recognizing the work of the Crawford family of Edmond. The Crawford's moved their family to Sierra Leone to open two orphanages for children who lost their families to Ebola. Their work to provide the orphans of Sierra Leone a place to live and grow in the face of human tragedy is a beautiful act of love.

In 2015, Inhofe also addressed the ongoing challenges facing families trying to adopt orphans out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Intercountry adoptions from the DRC have been stalled for years because of domestic policies within the country. To address this, Inhofe joined several of his colleagues and sent a letter on July 31 to the DRC president and ambassador regarding the issuance of exit permits for legally adopted children. To assist U.S. families attempting to adopt from the DRC, the Senate passed S. 1300. This bill – cosponsored by Inhofe – waives visa renewal fees for children who are being adopted but whose original visas have expired because of delays in the adoption proceedings. S. 1300 was enacted into law on Oct. 16, and became Public Law 114-70.

Inhofe introduced S. 1637, the *Protecting Adoption and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2015*. This bill would create a federal Responsible Father Registry ensuring that fathers who submit their information to the registry will be notified if court proceedings regarding the adoption of their child occur. This legislation builds on state based registries that exist in 33 states, including Oklahoma, to ensure participating states are able to share information with one another. This bill would also protect the parental rights of responsible fathers who may be interested in raising their own children as opposed to seeing them adopted.

Legislative Solutions Supported by Inhofe:

S. 667, the *Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2015*, which would prohibit the federal government or states receiving federal funding for child welfare services from discriminating against faith-based child service providers. This legislation would ensure adoptive and foster parents have access to the child service providers of their choice.

S. 835, the *Tribal Adoption Parity Act*, would ease the financial challenges of adopting children in tribal communities by allowing families that adopt through tribal governments to use the adoption tax credit in the same way they'd be able to had they adopted through a state court.

S. 950, the *Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act*, would allow for the adoption tax credit to be fully refundable. This bill would ensure lower income families choosing to adopt will be provided with necessary tax relief to help cover the high cost of an adoption proceeding.

“Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers are some of my favorite people. They have strong values and they know what make America great.”

- Sen. Jim Inhofe said when he spoke to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau in April 2015

Repealing Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling

Inhofe has opposed the mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements that have been in place since the 2002 Farm Bill. Because COOL is considered a non-tariff trade barrier, the United States faced over \$1 billion in economic retaliatory measures by Canada and Mexico. This would directly harm Oklahoma’s livestock and agricultural producers. The repeal of COOL was enacted as Section 759 of the *Agriculture Appropriations Act*, which was included in P.L. 114-113 on Dec. 18.

Protecting Crop Insurance

Inhofe opposed punitive cuts on the crop insurance program. These cuts would have reduced competition and the quality of service delivered by the private sector in support of individual farmers and ranchers, farm suppliers and processors. Inhofe was instrumental in reversing these cuts through the enactment of Section 32205 of the highway bill that he authored, ensuring this safety net for farming communities in Oklahoma is sustained.

Agriculture Research Funding

On Sept. 16, 2011, Inhofe introduced the bipartisan *Charitable Agricultural Research Act*, which allows for the creation of a new type of charitable, tax-exempt organization, Agricultural Research Organizations (AROs), to drive private agricultural research efforts together with land grant universities. As the government is scaling down its role, the *Charitable Agriculture Research Act* encourages the private sector to fill the gap. The *Charitable Agricultural Research Act* was included in P.L. 114-113, which was signed into law on Dec. 18. This provision is of particular importance to fostering stronger relationships between the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Okla. and Oklahoma’s premier agriculture universities to support new and innovative agricultural research.



The National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the USDA funds advanced research, education, and public outreach projects at land-grant universities across the nation. Oklahoma State University and Langston University successfully compete each year to receive grant funding, which they use to conduct research needed to improve our agricultural capabilities, mitigate crop diseases and improve food safety and water quality. Inhofe supported the inclusion of \$350 million for competitive agriculture research grants that was part of P.L. 114-113

Dietary Guidelines

On March 12, Inhofe joined 29 senators in sending a letter to the Obama administration expressing concerns that the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee ignored peer-reviewed and published scientific evidence in recommending that “lean meat” be removed from what is considered a healthy diet. Inhofe supported the inclusion of Section 734 of H.R. 2029, which was enacted in P.L. 114-113, and requires that the Dietary Guidelines for Americans be based on significant science and limited in scope to nutritional, dietary information.



“The Noble Foundation is grateful to the leadership of Senator Inhofe. His support demonstrated the value of agricultural research organizations, the need for such organizations and the potential benefit to agriculture—inside and outside of Oklahoma.”

- Steven Rhines, vice president and general counsel of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation





NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT 2016

AS THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, SEN. JIM INHOFE HAS FOUGHT TO BLOCK PRESIDENT OBAMA’S EFFORTS TO DISARM AMERICA AND WEAKEN THE WORLD’S GREATEST MILITARY. INHOFE HAS ALSO WORKED TO REPRESENT THE NEEDS OF THE FIVE MILITARY BASES THAT CALL OKLAHOMA HOME AND TO ENSURE OUR STATE REMAINS COMPETITIVE FOR FUTURE DEFENSE PROJECTS AND ATTRACTIVE FOR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILIES.

The following are provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) FY’16 that Inhofe either sponsored or supported:

Guantanamo Bay

When first considered by the Senate, the NDAA included language that would have encouraged the president to produce a plan to close Gitmo while also tightening restrictions on transferring Gitmo detainees to certain foreign countries. Inhofe opposed this language and authored Senate amendment #1533, which fully prohibited transferring Gitmo detainees to the United States through Dec. 31, 2016. In the final version of the NDAA, the language concerning a plan closing Gitmo was removed and Inhofe’s amendment was included as Section 1031.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Prohibition

Inhofe pushed for and supported language that makes clear

that nothing in the NDAA shall be construed to authorize a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round in fiscal year 2016. Inhofe believes that the United States has reduced force capability to an unacceptable level, and that it should not be brought down any further in the near term. He also recognizes that our national security has an immediate fiscal crisis and the defense community should not bear the near-term costs of a BRAC round in this tough economic climate for savings that will not be realized for another 20 years.

Protecting & Retaining AWACS, JSTARS, and the EC-130H

Inhofe successfully included language in the final bill that prohibits for two years the Air Force from retiring or preparing to retire any AWACS, JSTARS or EC-130H Compass Call aircraft. For the past two decades, AWACS have been under constant, heavy demand, supporting overseas contingency operations (OCO) as well as homeland defense missions. Inhofe successfully blocked the president’s defense proposal that would have radically reduced our nation’s AWAC fleet and thereby inacti-

vating the 513th Reserve Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, which would have devastated a key military capability.

Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) Program

Inhofe successfully included legislation in the final bill that authorized full funding to acquire 30 new PIMs, which are necessary to the modernization of the Paladin Self-Propelled Howitzer and the U.S. artillery force. The modernization and integration takes place at the BAE System facility in Elgin, Okla.

KC-46A Procurement and Basing

Inhofe included language in the NDAA to authorize needed funding for the KC-46A program, which is the Air Force’s next generation tanker that will replace the KC-135. Altus Air Force Base will begin receiving the first of four aircraft in August 2016. Tinker Air Force Base will provide depot maintenance for the KC-46 with construction of new maintenance facilities having already begun on 158 acres acquired from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company made possible through a joint effort of the U.S. Air Force, the city of Oklahoma City, and Oklahoma County. The single campus environment will translate into cost savings and efficiencies while supporting 1,321 jobs at Tinker Air Force Base. The first KC-46A will arrive at Tinker Air Force Base in 2018.

Oklahoma Military Construction (MILCON)

Inhofe supported language in the final bill that authorizes Fort Sill to build out phase two of the reception barracks complex and to build an additional training support facility. Altus Air Force Base will receive funding for a 120-room dormitory and additional support for its KC-46A fuel cell maintenance hangar. Tinker Air Force Base will receive funding for a KC-46 Depot Maintenance Dock and for a new air traffic control tower. Will Rogers World Airport will receive \$7.6 million as we continue the presence of the MC-12 aircraft with the Oklahoma National Guard.

C-130H Engine, Propulsion System Modernization Programs

Inhofe supported language in the final bill that fully funds the C-130H engine and propulsion system modernization. These engine modifications lower fuel consumption, improve performance and improve the thrust of the C-130’s engine. This will allow companies, such as Boeing in Oklahoma City, to ensure an operational capability of the C-130 fleet.

Active Electronically Scanned Array Radar (AESA)

The Oklahoma Air National Guard’s 38th Fighter Wing of F-16s in Tulsa are operating using legacy radar systems in dire need of upgrading. Inhofe included report language in this year’s NDAA supporting First Air Force and Northern Com-

mand’s Joint Urgent Operational Need request to upgrade the F-16 fleet systems to the AESA radar. This language will support the provision of radar equipment upgrade that will help bridge the gap between our 4th and 5th generation fighters and ensure their continued success in protecting our nation.

Cybersecurity

The Department of Defense (DOD) has drastically increased its funding for cyber operations and security to address the growing threats posed by cyber-attacks by our enemies’ use of advanced technologies. Inhofe supported language in the bill to preserve our means to train and equip our cyber forces to defend America now and in the future, while focusing on growing our capabilities through education, training and technological development. The University of Tulsa (TU) has long been a center of excellence in cyber security and research. This language will provide additional opportunities for TU to continue to contribute to the development of cutting edge technologies for our nation’s defense and for all Americans.

Impact Aid

Inhofe was again successful in including language in the final bill that authorizes \$25 million in supplemental Impact Aid to local educational agencies and schools with military dependent children as well as an

additional \$5 million in Impact Aid for schools with military dependent children with severe disabilities. This funding helps Oklahoma’s military communities offset the impact large military installations have on their land tax base, which generally funds education.

Commissaries

The Senate NDAA included language that would have instructed DOD to privatize commissaries at five major military installations without first studying the impact this initiative would have on service members. Commissaries are the most utilized service by our nation’s military members and their families. When surveyed, 95 percent were accessing commissaries in order to purchase household goods to achieve needed savings. Privatization of commissaries would jeopardize this savings. Inhofe authored amendment #1728 to strike the provision ordering a partial privatization and replacing it with language to study the impact privatization would have. The language was adopted by voice vote, and the final bill included language requiring DOD to submit a plan for commissary and exchange systems to become budget neutral by 2018. For this initiative, Inhofe was awarded the 2015 Award of Merit from The Military Coalition, which represents more than 5.5 million military members and their families.

MOAA is grateful for Senator Inhofe’s leadership in stopping privatization of the commissary system.

- Military Officers Association of America

◀ COMMITTEE HEARINGS ▶

In 2015, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), of which Sen. Jim Inhofe is the senior member, held numerous hearings to provide oversight of the state of our nation's military under the leadership of President Obama. The following are the top hearings in 2015 that Inhofe participated in and helped to bring light to or reaffirmed a narrative that our nation's military is not being provided the resources to match its commitments around the world.

Sequestration and Readiness

Inhofe participated in a committee hearing on March 18 regarding the U.S. Army's and U.S. Air Force's budget proposals for fiscal year 2016. In Inhofe's line of questioning, it was highlighted that should defense budget caps continue under the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011, the Department of Defense will be forced to cut training hours, which will increase risks for our men and women in uniform. Witnesses at the hearing included: Chief of Staff for the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno and Chief of Staff for the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III.

When Inhofe asked what would happen if, under current conditions, the military were required to enter into another contingency, Gen. Odierno responded that:

“We would end up sending troops over that are not properly trained.”

Our nation would answer if called up, but at greater risk to soldiers' lives. Another impact of underfunding defense is that it becomes difficult and more expensive to retain a highly skilled force. For example, training a pilot of F-22 caliber would require a bonus of \$225,000 over nine years to prevent the pilot from leaving service to go to industry. Training a new pilot, however, costs \$9 million.

Underfunding defense also jeopardizes the military's ability to maintain readiness. Restoring readiness is not simply a function of money, it is also one of time. Gen. Odierno told Inhofe that “the one issue here that we keep running into is for us, we stop training. And so that can't just be fixed with money; it is time and money. So every bit of time we lose pushes us back further. So if we don't -- if we go sequestration levels, for us, we can't take anymore force structure out. We're already on that road. So it comes directly out of modernization and training dollars. So what'll happen is we'll start canceling training, and if we get it three or four months later, we've lost three or four months of training. And in fact, to reschedule it, you'll have units that will then miss a whole cycle of training, because they will have missed their opportunity...”



Inhofe participating in the promotion ceremony of LTJG Gaylan Greenawalt of Tulsa on June 3.



TIME

THE PRESIDENT HAS SET A DANGEROUS STANDARD

Op-ed by Sen. Jim Inhofe on 3/25/15

“Our nation has always, and will always, do everything within its power to bring our service men and women home and account for every last one who did not return, no matter the circumstances. Our military men and women know that when they are sent into harm’s way, they will never be left behind.”

“Nonetheless, the military took appropriate action on Wednesday in charging Bergdahl for desertion based on evidence presented. The nation should feel confident in its Uniform Code of Military Justice system as it reviews Bergdahl’s case and makes a determination regarding his accountability. The Uniform Code of Military Justice is critical to ensuring the rights of our service men and women are protected.”

“While Bergdahl will ultimately be held accountable for his actions, who will be held accountable for breaking the law regarding the release of prisoners from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba?”

In executing the transfer of five detainees from Guantanamo Bay in exchange for Bergdahl, the president violated a law that requires him to notify Congress 30 days before any transfer of terrorists from the detention facility and to explain how the threat posed by the terrorists has been substantially mitigated. His failure to adhere to a law he signed places our nation’s security at great risk for the foreseeable future.”

that it would only embolden the Taliban to simply hold out until we left, at which point it would be able to launch an offensive against the democratically elected Afghani government. At a hearing on Oct. 6, Inhofe questioned Gen. John F. Campbell about the administration’s ongoing plan to withdraw all American troops by the end of 2015 given deteriorating conditions on the ground. About a week later, on Oct. 16, President Obama reversed his decision and pledged to retain 9,800 American troops there through most of 2016.

Pentagon Budget

Many of the Armed Services hearings this year have highlighted the need for reform within DOD. During a defense reform hearing on Oct. 21, Inhofe questioned former Defense Sec. Robert Gates about how the Pentagon can best absorb budget cuts in a way that effectively and responsibly streamlines operations and continues to meet our current national security needs.

In his question, Inhofe highlighted how bureaucracies often fail to achieve balance and preserve critical operation competencies when adjusting to budget cuts. Highlighting an example of his own efforts to reform the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) budget, Inhofe said bureaucracies often target spending cuts towards programs that would scare the public from demanding further fiscal restraint.

“Bureaucracies don’t want to get smaller, they want to grow... So every time it seems that there is a bureaucracy that is asked to reduce its overhead – and that’s what we’re talking about today, headquarters, its overhead – they will pick out, cherry-pick something that they do that the public is so concerned about.”

- Inhofe in SASC hearing on Oct. 21

In responding to Inhofe’s question of how to prevent this practice within the Pentagon, Gates said it requires incentivizing leaders to make smart budgeting decisions and also holding leaders accountable to the outcomes of those decisions.

Gates closed with, “In effect, you have to regularly grade your homework. You can’t tell somebody -- you can’t tell a service secretary, ‘I want you to cut \$25 billion in overhead over the next five years,’ and then a year later, ask him how he’s doing... You can make these bureaucracies work. But it’s, how do you do that? Because it clearly is not done very often. And one of the things that I did, for which this committee expressed a great deal of appreciation at the time, was actually holding people accountable.”

Drawdown in Afghanistan

Inhofe expressed his opposition to the president’s decision to provide a timetable for withdrawal from Afghanistan when it was first announced in 2011, stating

Sen. Jim Inhofe, a member of the Senate General Aviation Caucus and certified flight instructor with more than 11,000 flight hours, continues to lead the charge for general aviation in the U.S. Senate. Throughout 2015, Inhofe worked tirelessly to build support among his Senate colleagues and with a broad array of general aviation groups and pilot unions for the Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2 (S. 571). It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on Dec. 15.

The Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2 (PBOR 2) consists of the following priorities:

- Reforms the third-class medical certification process for general aviation pilots. Currently, the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) medical certification process is bureaucratic and burdensome and discourages pilots from disclosing and treating medical conditions that could impact their ability to fly. This legislation provides reforms in a way that will increase pilots’ knowledge of risk while ensuring treatment of identified conditions.
- Enhances the due process rights established in the first Pilot’s Bill of Rights (authored by Inhofe and enacted in 2012) by ensuring airman have the right to appeal an FAA decision through a new, merit-based *de novo* trial in federal court, ensuring the FAA treats them in a fair and equitable manner.
- Increases transparency for airman subject to an investigation or enforcement action by requiring the FAA to articulate the specific activity under investigation to parties involved in the investigation and provides specific documentation relevant to its investigation.
- Expedites updates to the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) Improvement Program required in the first Pilot’s Bill of Rights by requiring FAA to maintain an online database with certified NOTAMs. This will ensure pilots are able to find NOTAMs in a centralized location. PBOR 2 requires FAA to certify these records and blocks the enforcement of any NOTAM violation if the NOTAM was not appropriately posted in the database.
- Ensures the accessibility of flight data, such as air traffic communication tapes and radar information produced by contract towers, and flight service stations and controller training programs, which gives certificate holders the ability to use this information to defend themselves during an enforcement action proceeding.

The PBOR 2 builds on the successes of the original *Pilot’s Bill of Rights*, which was enacted as P.L. 112-153 in 2012. The Pilot’s Bill of Rights dramatically reformed the way FAA handles enforcement actions by requiring National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) review of FAA enforcement actions to be confirm with the Federal Rules of Evidence and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, requiring FAA to notify a pilot who is the subject of an investigation and inform the pilot that any response provided can be used as evidence against him. It requires that in an FAA enforcement action against a pilot, FAA must grant the pilot all relevant evidence 30 days prior to a decision to proceed with an enforcement action. The *Pilot’s Bill of Rights* also required the FAA to undertake a NOTAM Improvement Program to simplify and archive NOTAMs in a centralized location to ensure the most relevant information reaches the pilot. The *Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2* provides a follow on to this effort by providing a six month deadline for FAA to complete implementation of this requirement.

“We are very pleased to see the Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2 moving forward. These reforms will improve safety, foster the private pilot - private physician relationship, and give general aviation pilots much-needed relief from the current cumbersome, outdated, and costly federal medical process.”
 - Mark Baker, president of the AOPA

PBOR 2 passes the U.S.

Protecting Contract Towers

Sen. Jim Inhofe is a strong supporter of the Federal Contract Tower program, which includes six towers in Oklahoma: Ardmore Municipal, Enid Woodring, Lawton-Ft. Sill, OKC Wiley Post, OU Westheimer and Stillwater. Failure to fully fund the federal contract tower program—one of Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) most cost effective programs—would restrict the operations of contract towers and have an immediate negative impact on general aviation safety, the efficiency of large commercial airports, emergency medical operations, law enforcement, agricultural activities and businesses throughout the United States. Inhofe first became involved in defending the contract tower program in May 2013 after the FAA threatened to close 149 of them as a result of sequestration. Each year since then, Inhofe has secured full funding for contract towers.

“We are pleased to present this recognition to Sen. Inhofe for all of his tireless efforts over the past several years and his leadership in the Senate to keep the focus on contract air traffic control towers and their importance for the National Aviation System,”

- Walter Strong, A.A.E., Chair of the U.S. Contract Tower Association Policy Board

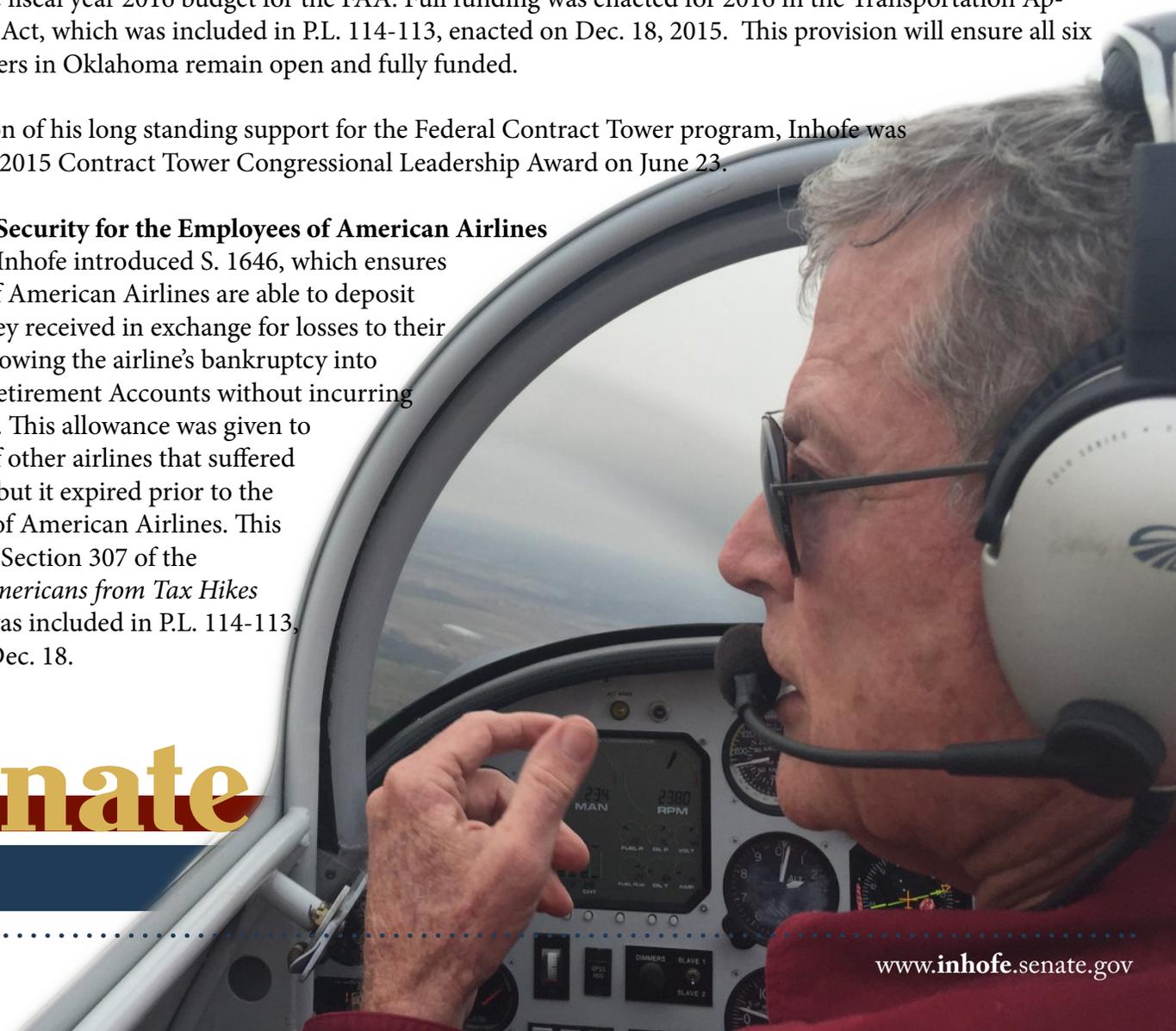
On March 20, Inhofe led a bipartisan letter signed by 25 additional senators to the Senate Committee on Appropriations urging the inclusion of language ensuring full and dedicated funding for the Contract Tower Program as part of the fiscal year 2016 budget for the FAA. Full funding was enacted for 2016 in the Transportation Appropriations Act, which was included in P.L. 114-113, enacted on Dec. 18, 2015. This provision will ensure all six contract towers in Oklahoma remain open and fully funded.

In recognition of his long standing support for the Federal Contract Tower program, Inhofe was awarded the 2015 Contract Tower Congressional Leadership Award on June 23.

Retirement Security for the Employees of American Airlines

On June 23, Inhofe introduced S. 1646, which ensures employees of American Airlines are able to deposit payments they received in exchange for losses to their pensions following the airline’s bankruptcy into Individual Retirement Accounts without incurring a tax penalty. This allowance was given to employees of other airlines that suffered bankruptcy, but it expired prior to the bankruptcy of American Airlines. This legislation is Section 307 of the *Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act*, which was included in P.L. 114-113, enacted on Dec. 18.

. Senate



Small banks in Oklahoma continue to be hit hard by the effect of the Dodd-Frank Act, which has caused regulatory compliance costs to skyrocket as much as 40 percent from the levels seen before the implementation of the act. Sen. Jim Inhofe is dedicated to helping small banks across Oklahoma obtain needed regulatory relief from Washington's overbearing bureaucracies.

On Jan. 8, Inhofe voted in favor of legislation requiring the president to appoint at least one member of the Federal Reserve Board whose primary experience is working in or supervising community banks having less than \$10 billion in total assets. This provision was enacted into law as Section 109 of P.L. 114-1.

Supporting Regulatory Flexibility to Help Homeowners

On May 21, Inhofe joined 40 of his colleagues in a letter to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau urging a transition period for mortgage lenders making a good faith effort to comply with new and complex regulations that were set to go into effect in August, traditionally the busiest month

for real estate transactions. To further address this, Inhofe cosponsored S. 1711, legislation that would mandate a transition period of five months. As a result of Congressional pressure, the CFPB did announce a grace period for mortgage lenders, ensuring that these companies could focus their resources on helping Oklahomans buy or sell their home, instead of dealing with more federally imposed bureaucratic red tape.

Terrorism Risk Insurance

After the devastating 9/11/01 terrorist attacks, commercial insurance providers segregated terrorism risk insurance coverage from traditional commercial insurance policies, making the procurement of terrorism risk insurance prohibitively expensive for real estate owners and operators across the United States. On Jan. 8, Inhofe voted in favor of H.R. 26, which reauthorizes the Terrorism Risk Insurance program with important reforms that require private insurers to provide higher coverage in their policies before the federal government provides any resources. The legislation further allows the government to recoup 140 percent of the cost to the government for any insurance pay outs, ensuring the legislation is budget neutral. It was enacted as P.L. 114-1.

Inhofe also cosponsored the following banking legislation in 2015:

- S. 423, the *Privacy Notice Modernization Act of 2015*, which would eliminate the requirement for financial institutions to provide annual privacy notifications to customers and members when privacy policies have not changed. In addition to making privacy notices more meaningful to consumers, it would reduce a substantial amount of unnecessary mailings.
- S. 774, the *Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act*, which would provide small community banks the opportunity to appeal their banking exams from their regulators with an impartial ombudsman.
- S. 812, the *CLEAR Relief Act of 2015*, which would exempt banks with fewer than \$1 billion in assets from Sarbanes Oxley internal controls requirements. It would remove the escrow requirement for mortgages made by institutions with fewer than \$10 billion in assets. It would also help small banks stay in the business of mortgages by considering all mortgages retained in portfolio by a bank with \$10 billion in assets or less a qualified residential mortgages for the purposes of federal regulations.
- S. 1383, the *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Accountability Act of 2015*, which would make the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) accountable to Congress and the American people by funding it through the annual congressional appropriations process. Under current law, the CFPB is funded by the Federal Reserve System.



Bartlesville



Tulsa



Guthrie



Midwest City

BUDGET

As a long time fiscal conservative, Sen. Jim Inhofe was proud to once again cosponsor a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution (S. J. Res. 6). The amendment would require the United States to maintain a balanced budget, ensuring Washington lives within its means. The amendment also limits spending at 18 percent of gross domestic product and prohibits the following without congressional supermajorities: increasing taxes, deficit spending, or spending above the 18 percent cap.

On May 5, the Republican Senate passed its first balanced budget resolution since 2001. It does not increase taxes while it provided reconciliation instructions to allow for the repeal of Obamacare, maintained adequate resources to defend our nation, maintained budget caps for nondefense spending, and reduced long-term debt by \$5.8 trillion. In comparison, the president's budget never balances, raises taxes by \$2.1 trillion, and maintains discriminatory cuts to our nation's military.

Natural Gas Exports

On July 10, 2013, Inhofe led a bipartisan letter with 33 of his colleagues urging the Department of Energy (DOE) to expedite its approvals of liquefied natural gas (LNG) export applications. Before his letter, the DOE had approved only two applications. In the time since then, eleven permits have been approved.

Current law stipulates that LNG exports be approved automatically to countries with which the United States has free trade agreements (FTAs). The United States currently has FTAs with 20 countries, but negotiations are currently being held to expand this to many countries in Asia and Europe, which are the key demand markets for LNG. Inhofe supported Trade Promotion Authority that will facilitate the consideration of these trade agreements once negotiations have completed, which will support the export of Oklahoma's natural gas resources. Trade Promotion Authority was enacted as P.L. 114-26 on June 29.

Advancing Trade with Africa

On May 19, Inhofe and Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) introduced S. 1379, the *African Free Trade Initiative Act*, which encourages the development of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) between the United States and countries in sub-Saharan Africa in order to create bilateral, duty-free trade between the countries. A key provision requires existing government agencies and entities (the United States Trade Representative, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the US Agency for International Development) to coordinate and collaborate together. Since 2002, annual trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa has increased by \$72.5 billion, or 47 percent. Furthermore, AGOA has directly supported the creation of more than 300,000 jobs in sub-Saharan Africa and 100,000 jobs in the United States. The Inhofe-Coons bill would build on this success and give vision to a more advanced trade relationship, adding to the partnership the United States already enjoys with these countries.

Advancing Trade of Oklahoma Energy

Sen. Jim Inhofe has long supported ending the 40-year-old ban on oil exports. This outdated policy has put Oklahoma energy producers at a strategic disadvantage compared to international producers. Oil production is now 97 percent higher in Oklahoma than it was just five years ago, and this is the result of Oklahoma ingenuity in the development of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. Inhofe is a coauthor of S. 1312, legislation that lifts the ban on oil exports, and this language was incorporated into Section 101 of Division O of P.L. 114-113, which was enacted on Dec. 18.

Now that the ban has been lifted, our allies across Europe and Asia will be able to secure their energy needs from the United States instead of from Russia and Iran. It will also create 400,000 jobs and help stem the tide of job losses the industry has experienced over the last year.



Inhofe speaks to OKC Chamber on April 15.



RESTORING LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION

Since *No Child Left Behind* expired in 2007, the Obama administration has been empowered to force states to change their education standards through an onerous “waiver” process. In 2014, the administration forced Oklahoma to adopt Common Core standards under this process. Sen. Jim Inhofe led the delegation letter demanding a reinstatement of the waiver, which the administration granted in November 2014.

In March, Inhofe introduced S. 690, the *Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act* with Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.). The legislation repealed the Common Core standard by prohibiting the Department of Education from issuing regulations or other policies that conflict with the policies of local education authorities. It would also prevent the administration from continuing to use a “waiver” process to enact its liberal policies.

On Dec. 9, the Senate passed S. 1177, the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, which incorporates the principles of Inhofe’s local school control bill. This bill was enacted into law as P.L. 114-95 on Dec. 10. The law reforms the outdated No Child Left Behind by:

- Ending the Common Core mandate.
- Ending the Secretary of Education’s ability to require states to obtain waivers from the federal government to continue receiving funding without more burdensome federal requirements.
- Empowering states to establish accountability systems instead of the federal government. The accountability systems will be state-designed and meet minimum federal parameters, but the federal government is prohibited from determining or approving state standards. This reform will allow states to determine the best way to hold their teachers and school districts accountable to delivering results.

Inhofe offered amendment #2169, which requires states to report on the graduation rates of homeless children and children in foster care. This amendment was adopted by a vote of 56-40 and was enacted as Section 1111 of P.L. 114-95 on Dec. 10.

Restoring Local Control Over School Lunches

Among the many negative changes the Obama administration has made to the school lunch program is a requirement that local schools raise prices on lunches – even when there is no need to do so. School districts have seen a decline in full-price lunch participation and many attribute this to some families no longer being able to afford to pay the rising costs. For those families that already find themselves under financial strain, raising prices could potentially mean the difference between their children getting a healthy meal that day or going without.

To address this, Inhofe introduced S. 1805, the *School Lunch Price Protection Act*, on May 22, which would keep Washington from forcing our schools to raise lunch prices when there is no need to and returns this important decision-making power back to state and local school districts. Recognizing this problem, the Senate Committee on Agriculture included Inhofe’s provision as Sec. 106 in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization, which passed unanimously out of committee in January 2016. The bill prevents school districts from being forced to raise school lunch prices if they keep a surplus in their school lunch accounts.

“As a Director of a Child Nutrition Program for a district with 67 percent low income, I believe it is up to our district to determine what we should charge for the full-priced meals. We know our students and families and know the threshold at which they can pay. By mandating equity, we are causing families to not participate in the program because of the financial burden. I applaud Sen. Inhofe for introducing this piece of legislation.”

- Jeff Denton

School Nutrition Association of Oklahoma

On Aug. 27, Inhofe joined students, dignitaries, service members, and Oklahoma leaders in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of Freedom Elementary on Fort Sill. In May 2001, Ambassador Joe Westphal, then-Under Secretary of the Army, and Inhofe toured the Geronimo and Sheridan schools in Lawton and vowed to work together to build a new school on Fort Sill to address the needs of our nation’s soldiers and their families. This elementary school for children of servicemembers and civilians was made possible by the efforts of many, to include a \$37 million grant from the Department of Defense given to Lawton Public Schools. Freedom Elementary was named after the “sound of freedom” that comes from Fort Sill’s artillery range. The school sets the standard for the Oklahoma education system with its state of the art technology and conducive environment for learning. As one of the speakers at the ribbon cutting ceremony, Inhofe told the children and all in attendance, “What you are seeing here at Freedom Elementary School on Fort Sill, we are going to see all around America probably 10 years from now. This is the example people are going to use.”

FREEDOM



UNLOCKING ENERGY ON FEDERAL LANDS

On Feb. 13, Sen. Jim Inhofe introduced S. 490, the *Federal Lands Freedom Act* (FLFA), which would give states the authority to develop all forms of energy resources on federal lands located within their borders, excluding only those areas specifically designated as off-limits. The domestic energy revolution in the United States happened in spite of the president's policies intended to stifle the development of those domestic resources. This legislation would recognize that the states, not the federal government, are best equipped to tend to the extensive

unused and unprotected lands across the nation that the federal government has staked a claim to. Across the country, it can take as much as 700 times longer to get a drilling permit on federal lands compared to private lands in Oklahoma, which is why we have seen energy production on these lands drop by six percent for oil and 28 percent for natural gas since 2009. This legislation would give states control over nearly all federal land within their borders to determine the best way to develop it for energy purposes.

ADVANCING STATE REGULATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES

On June 26, in response to the Department of the Interior's release of hydraulic fracturing regulations applying to energy production on federal lands, Inhofe introduced S. 1234, the *Fracturing Regulations are Effective in State Hands* (FRESH) Act. The FRESH Act preserves the right of states to regulate all forms of hydraulic fracturing. States have been at the forefront

of energy regulations – to include hydraulic fracturing – since the dawn of the industry. Hydraulic fracturing was first done in Duncan, Okla., in 1948. Since that time, not a single case of groundwater contamination has been caused by the practice despite the fact that over 1 million wells have been fracked. On Sept. 30, a federal judge in Wyoming issued a preliminary injunction against the implementation of the regulations pending review of it by the courts.

The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) is the driving force behind efforts to establish excellence in state-based regulations of the energy industry through innovative applications such as FracFocus. FracFocus provides a single electronic list disclosing chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing to produce oil and natural gas. Inhofe was instrumental in securing \$5.4 million for the Risk Based Data Management System at the Department of Energy, which provides funding to the GWPC, as enacted in P.L. 114-113.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

On Jan. 6, Inhofe cosponsored S. 1, the *Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act*, which provided for the authorization of the permit allowing construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Despite years of delays and multiple studies showing that the pipeline would not have any significant environmental impacts, the president failed to make a decision on whether to approve the cross-border permit to allow construction of the pipeline. This happened despite his March 2012 visit to Cushing, Okla. where he expressed his support for the project. The Senate passed S. 1 by a vote of 62-36 on Jan. 29. The House passed the bill on Feb. 11 by a vote of 270-152. The President vetoed the bill on Feb. 24. The Senate attempted to override the veto on March 4 with a vote of 62-37, but it fell short of the 67 votes required.

NATURAL GAS VEHICLES

In 2014, Sen. Jim Inhofe introduced S. 2721, the *Natural Gas Long Haul Truck Competitiveness Act*. The bill levels requirements between diesel and natural gas long-haul trucks by allowing them to carry the same amount of freight. Due to natural gas fueling systems weighing roughly 2,000 pounds more than diesel systems, trucks running on natural gas are forced to carry less freight under current federal weight restrictions. S. 2721 provides a weight exemption of up to 2,000 pounds to natural gas trucks to ensure they can carry the same amount of freight as their diesel counterparts. S. 2721 was enacted as Section 1410 of P.L. 114-94 on Dec. 4.

In 2014, Inhofe introduced S. 2065 to advance the development of light duty natural gas trucks and cars. Section 3 of the bill gives states the right to designate natural gas vehicles as low efficiency vehicles for the purposes of qualifying for HOV driving lanes, and it was enacted as a provision in the highway bill authored by Inhofe, Section 1411 of P.L. 114-94, on Dec. 4.

Inhofe authored the creation of a 50-cent per gallon excise tax credit for natural gas sold as a transportation fuel in the 2005 highway bill. This temporary tax provision was again extended through 2016 in Division Q, Section 185 of P.L. 114-113.



Pictured above, Inhofe met with General Motors (GM) on Jan. 22 to discuss how Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards are impacting automakers. GM provided an update on the impact of Inhofe's provision in the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that streamlines regulations for the production of natural gas dual-fueled vehicles (NGV).

THE JOURNAL RECORD

Published in the *Journal Record*

on Nov. 6, 2015

Authored by U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe

In 1973, when gasoline prices averaged less than 40 cents per gallon, turmoil in the Middle East yielded an oil embargo against the United States.

Shortages of gasoline and long lines at filling stations became the norm – a memory deeply set in our history. Washington responded by putting in place a ban on the export of our oil.

It's understandable why energy scarcity became a national fear. But by the mid-2000s, advances in horizontal drilling technology opened up America's shale revolution. With it came growing opportunities for many of Oklahoma's energy companies.

Oil production is now 97 percent higher in Oklahoma than it was just five years ago. Across the United States, energy production has increased to the point that we've become the largest oil and natural gas producer in the world.

With these advancements, the purpose of the oil export ban has become outdated. Rather than protect Americans from shortages in oil, the ban has contributed significantly to the thousands of job losses we've seen across the state. Low oil prices, combined with a captive market, are forcing domestic producers to take below-market prices when compared to our competitors around the world.

Lifting the ban on oil exports would enable Oklahoma's energy companies to get the true market price for their oil that otherwise amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars in lost profits for Oklahoma's energy producers each year.

This would help stem the tide of job losses while the industry recovers and finds a new equilibrium. But the good news doesn't stop at the office building: Study after study has shown that allowing free trade in oil will also lower gasoline prices at the pump.

When the auto industry was facing dramatic job losses, congressional Democrats bailed them out. Oklahoma doesn't need that. What we need is for the federal government to get out of the way. Now is the time to lift the ban on oil exports.

ENERGY



ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015

IN THE 114TH CONGRESS, SEN. JIM INHOFE RETURNED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE EPW COMMITTEE. HE APPROACHED THE GAVEL READY TO GET CONGRESS WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAIN AND TO HELP RESTORE REGULAR ORDER IN THE SENATE.

The following are accomplishments at a glance:

- Enactment of the FAST Act, the first 5 year highway bill in 17 years and first long-term highway bill in 10 years.
- Passage in the Senate of the Lautenberg Act, a bill to reform the *Toxic Control Substance Act* and the largest environmental reform effort since the 1990s.
- Passed 26 new laws, with an additional four bills that have been reported out of committee and another four that have passed out of the Senate
- Held 39 committee and subcommittee hearings, including eight field hearings
- Conducted five committee mark-ups of EPW legislation
- Passed out of the Senate three Congressional Review Acts under the committee's jurisdiction
- Confirmed seven nominees
- Published two oversight reports

FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

For the first time since 2005, Congress enacted a long-term reauthorization to improve the nation's surface transportation infrastructure, roads, bridges, transit systems and rail transportation network. The FAST Act, H.R. 22, reforms and strengthens transportation programs, refocuses on national priorities, provides long-term certainty and more flexibility for states and local governments, streamlines project approval processes and maintains a strong commitment to safety.

IMPORTANT PROVISIONS FOR OKLAHOMA

Still Not a Donor State – Until 2005, Oklahoma was a “donor state,” sending more gas tax revenue to Washington than it got back in highway funding. As the lead Senate author of the 2005 highway bill, SAFETEA-LU, Sen. Jim Inhofe worked to ensure that for the first time Oklahomans were not paying more in taxes than they got back for our roads. The FAST Act continues the 2005 policy, ensuring that Oklahoma receives its gasoline taxes for Oklahoma roads and bridges.

Overall Oklahoma Funding – Under the FAST Act, Oklahoma will receive more than \$3.6 billion over the next five years – a 20 percent increase over the previous highway bill. In 2016, Oklahoma will see \$693 million to repair our roads and bridges, and that number will steadily increase over the next four years.

Planning Certainty for Major Projects – The FAST Act is the longest transportation reauthorization since the 1998 highway bill. Under Inhofe's two chairmanships at EPW, Congress has passed SAFETEA-LU in 2005, lasting four years, and the FAST Act, lasting five years. The remaining time has been filled with short-term extensions, including the 27-month MAP-21 reauthorization, leaving state regulators and building contractors conducting maintenance rather than major projects with limited and uncertain funding.

Streamlining Highway Projects – The FAST Act builds on the work Inhofe helped to negotiate in the last highway reauthorization bill, MAP-21, to further streamline the environmental review and permitting process with common-sense collaboration between federal and state highway regulators to accelerate the delivery of federal and state transportation projects for Oklahomans to use.

Bridges – Under the FAST Act, Oklahoma state and local governments will have more allocated funding for bridges both on and off the National Highway System so that Oklahoma can continue to address the many bridges across the state that are in need of repair or replacement.

Rebuilding after natural disasters – The FAST Act makes emergency exemptions from environmental laws and expedited reviews and approvals applicable to roads, highways, railways,

bridges or transit facilities that are damaged by an event that has been declared an emergency by a state or the president, to allow reconstruction of the damaged facilities in the same location and with the same footprint. This will allow Oklahoma and all other states recover more quickly from tornados and other natural disasters.

Common Sense Regulatory Relief

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act exemption – The FAST Act includes a common-sense exemption from the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*, with safeguards, to allow reconstruction of bridges that are in a serious or worse condition, without adversely impacting bird populations. This provision will help Oklahoma repair the 1,363 bridges in the state that are in serious or worse condition.
- Service club, charitable association, or religious service signs – The FAST Act grandfathers existing service club, charitable association, or religious service signs in all states with a size of 32 square feet or less.

State and Local Control – The FAST Act converts former programs like the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to a block grant program, increasing flexibility for Oklahoma at the state and local level.

“A \$305 billion multiyear transportation bill is all but a done deal and achieves the seemingly impossible: Congress doing its job... A functional and safe highway and infrastructure system is absolutely essential. FAST will move the country, its commerce and its citizenry, in the right direction.”

- Tulsa World Editorial Board, Dec. 4

Oklahoma press conference on transportation bill in June 2015.



Moving Freight

- National Freight Program – The FAST Act establishes a freight program, which provides dedicated funding for every state to improve the movement of goods, reducing costs and improving performance for businesses and individuals. Under this program, Oklahoma will receive dedicated funding to improving freight corridors and associated assets allowing for local businesses and farmers to transport products and materials more efficiently, cutting down costs for them and their consumers.
- Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) – In addition to the National Freight Program, Oklahoma through the NSFHP will be able to

compete for funding to address major projects of high importance to a community, a region, or the country. This will provide much needed funding for projects that are difficult to deliver using only traditional funding streams. In addition, NSFHP has a rural set-aside and equitable geographic distribution of funds. This will ensure a balance of where federal dollars are directed, making sure rural projects see the light of day as well as projects located in large urban areas.

Tribal Transportation Program – The FAST Act grows the program and decreases program management and oversight and project-related administrative expenses related to the tribal transportation program from six percent to five percent, so more money can be used on roads and bridges. Increases the set-aside for high-priority tribal bridges from two percent to three percent.

Natural Gas Vehicles – The FAST Act builds on Inhofe’s record supporting natural gas vehicle development and investment in natural gas fueling infrastructure by allowing the states to designate natural gas fueling corridors, identifying the needs and most vital locations for such fueling infrastructure.

- Natural Gas Vehicles in HOV Lanes – the FAST Act provides states the flexibility to allow natural gas vehicles to use HOV lanes.
- Regulatory Parity with Electric Vehicles – The FAST Act instructs EPA to modify its automobile regulations so that manufacturers of natural gas vehicles are provided with identical regulatory incentives as those manufacturers of electric vehicles.
- Weight limit exemptions to incentives natural gas fueled heavy trucks – The FAST Act includes a limited truck weight exemption for natural gas commercial vehicles to put them on an even competitive level with trucks that have lighter diesel engines.



Inhofe unveiling his long-term highway reauthorization bill in June 2015.



Inhofe meeting with mayors, including OKC Mayor Mick Cornett, about the need for the federal government to partner with the states to advance infrastructure.



Inhofe holding a press conference in Owasso, Okla. in June 2015 to announce provisions in his highway bill that will benefit the state. He was joined by local business and industry leaders as well as local public officials.

“This act, which Inhofe authored, greatly improves the investment and the policies that are in current law and will allow the states to work more efficiently in administering the federal program. There are some who will find parts of the legislation that they will not agree with, but I can say without any hesitation that the DRIVE Act will certainly improve our national system.”

- Oklahoma DOT Sec. Gary Ridley in the Oklahoman on Aug. 28, 2015

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT REFORM, S. 697

The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act will reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for the first time in 40 years to create more regulatory certainty for American businesses and uniform protections for American families. Authored by Sens. Tom Udall (D-N.M) and David Vitter (R-La.), Sen. Jim Inhofe made it a priority to carry the legislation through committee and until it becomes law. The *Lautenberg Act* garnered the support of more than 150 outside organizations from all sides of the political, economic, and socioeconomic spectrum. With chemical regulations on the edge of being streamlined and improved, the chemical industry in the U.S. announced major investments and prospects for hundreds of thousands of new American jobs. The Senate unanimously passed this legislation on Dec. 17. In 2016, Inhofe will lead the work to reconcile the House and Senate passed bills to enact new and important reforms.

Here is what others are saying about TSCA reform:

“The government is failing at protecting the public from dangerous chemicals....until now.”

- Washington Post Editorial Board

“Today, with strong bipartisan support, a big and important step towards reform was taken as the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act was introduced.”

-National Association of Manufacturers

“A better fix is to update federal law to give the EPA the authority and resources it needs to investigate -- and when necessary, restrict or ban -- chemicals used in commercial and industrial products. Bipartisan legislation in Congress would move in this direction by making it easier for the EPA to impose restrictions on chemicals it deems unsafe and requiring the agency to review at least 25 chemicals every five years.”

-Bloomberg View

“With lawmakers coming together from both sides of the aisle, this is the best chance in a generation for us to move past an obsolete and badly broken law to provide strong protections for all Americans.”

-Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund

“Regulatory modernization will also help strengthen and sustain America’s role as a leading innovator for chemical products – an area that drives 25 percent of the U.S. economy...The leaders in Congress working together to modernize TSCA regulations deserve credit. They are acting in the best interests of our economy and our environment. They are also setting an example for modern Washington – building bridges across parties to act with wisdom and common sense.”

-Rex W. Tillerson, chairman and CEO of Exxon Mobil, in an op-ed for *Roll Call* published on Oct. 8

HOLDING THE ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR OVERREGULATION

Keeping FEMA Response Free of Climate Change Politics

When FEMA announced its plan to use state disaster funds to prevent impacts of climate change, the Senate EPW Committee requested an explanation about how the agency planned to require states to address climate change before becoming eligible for receipt of certain disaster mitigation grants. FEMA, in clarifying its previous announcement, did not include these new requirements. Congress included language in the Homeland Security Appropriations legislation directing FEMA to focus on the mitigation grants against the hazard itself and not on causation of hazards so as to allow states to address disasters without additional bureaucratic red tape.

Climate Change and Clean Power Plan Oversight

The EPW Committee has conducted rigorous oversight of the president's climate change agenda, specifically as it relates to his signature so-called Clean Power Plan. In 2015, the committee requested information and cost analysis from the administration in addition to holding six committee hearings on the EPA's greenhouse gas regulations on new and existing power plants. The committee also held hearings on the administration's commitments to the international community leading up to COP-21 in Paris; reported for Senate consideration Sen. Shelly Moore-Capito's (R-W.Va.) ARENA Act; discharged Senate Joint Resolutions 23 and 24, disapproving of the president's new

standards for new and existing power plants; and issued two oversight reports on EPA and environmental lobbying collusion in the development of EPA's power plant regulations and the legal effect of any commitment from the COP-21 in Paris.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Oversight

The EPW Committee held six full committee, subcommittee, and field hearings on EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers' "Waters of the U.S." regulation, reported Sen. Barrasso's (R-Wyo.) Federal Water Quality Protection Act, and discharged Senate Joint Resolution 22 disapproving of the EPA's and Corps' WOTUS rule which passed the U.S. Senate in a bipartisan vote.



Oklahoma Attorney Gen. Scott Pruitt testifying before the EPW Committee on the WOTUS rule on Feb. 4, 2015.

Illegal Lobbying from EPA

In April, Inhofe requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation into EPA's campaign to seek support of the WOTUS rule while both the proposed rule and related legislation were pending. GAO concluded in December that EPA engaged in illegal covert propaganda and violated anti-lobbying statutes. Inhofe, along with members of the EPW Committee, has also sent multiple oversight letters to EPA and the Corps regarding this rulemaking, including letters seeking the legal support for the rule, the record support for the rule, requesting an explanation of the treatment of storm sewers, and a request for the information relied on by political leadership disregarding expert opinions of the Corps.



Inhofe supporting Sen. Shelly Moore-Capito in the introduction of the ARENA Act.

Endangered Species Act Oversight & Reform

The EPW Committee held a comprehensive legislative hearing on bills addressing the ESA. Fish and Wildlife Director Dan Ashe testified twice before the committee concerning the FWS budget, and legislative improvements to the ESA. Governors from Montana and Wyoming testified before the committee on behalf of the Western Governors Association concerning the problems with ESA implementation.

- Lesser Prairie Chicken - In 2014, Inhofe introduced S. 2677, the *Lesser Prairie Chicken Voluntary Recovery Act* to remove the LPC from the Endangered Species List for five years to allow the five states in the bird’s range to implement their voluntary conservation plan. On Sept. 2, 2015, a federal judge in Texas vacated the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not adequately consider the states’ conservation efforts.
- American Burying Beetle - On May 6, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe announced that the Service would begin reviewing the status of the American Burying Beetle, which is the first step in the delisting process. He estimated this process would take up to 18 months. The beetle was listed in 1989, when fewer than 12 beetles were believed to exist in Eastern Oklahoma. Today, the Service has identified ABB populations throughout the Midwest, from Texas to Nebraska and Ohio.

Ozone Regulation Oversight

The EPW Committee held two oversight hearings looking into the effects and costs of EPA’s proposed ozone regulation with stakeholders and EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Janet McCabe. EPA originally proposed reducing the ozone standards despite half the country being out of compliance with the former standard of 75 ppb. EPA withdrew its former proposal in 2011. In its most recent proposal, EPA took comments on lowering the ozone standards to 60 ppb but half the country still has not complied with the current 75 ppb standard. Ultimately EPA finalized a 70 ppb standard. At this standard, no county in Oklahoma is out of compliance but EPW will continue its oversight and implementation of this unnecessary regulation.

Coal Ash Regulation Oversight

The EPW Committee held a stakeholder hearing on EPA’s coal ash regulation. While EPA determined it would not regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste as environmentalists requested, it instead promulgated regulations that can only be enforced through citizen lawsuits. The EPW Committee heard testimony from state environmental regulators, the utility industry, and coal ash recyclers all calling on Congress to act to provide direction on regulation on legislation to authorize state permitting programs for coal ash. EPW will report sensible legislation responding to EPA at the stakeholders’ request.

Regulatory Reform & Oversight

In 2015, the Environment and Public Works Oversight Subcommittee held four hearings and received testimony on EPA and Department of Interior Inspectors General investigations into agency waste, fraud, and abuse. Additional hearings examined the rulemaking process from three angles: the science and advisory process behind EPA regulations, environmental litigation otherwise known as “sue-and-settle” tactics used to manipulate the timing and substance of regulations, and EPA’s cost-benefit calculations underpinning regulations. Inhofe will continue examining the costs and benefits of federal regulations and the scientific integrity of federal regulations for all sectors of our economy.



“Under pressure from U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, the Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing the endangered status of the American burying beetle... We don’t want endangered species to go extinct, and we don’t want animals that aren’t really endangered to be listed. A review to determine the true status of the odd little bug is reasonable.”

- Tulsa World Editorial Board
May 16, 2015

Sen. Jim Inhofe speaks to Oklahoma Farm Bureau about EPA regulations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR OKLAHOMA

S.611, Grassroots Rural & Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act

This bill benefits small Oklahoma communities by reauthorizing technical assistance and training programs within the Safe Drinking Water Act's (SDWA) to assist small and rural public water systems in complying with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Under S. 611, EPA is authorized to make grants to provide technical assistance and would have authority to direct the funding to nonprofit organizations to provide onsite assistance, regional training, assistance with implementation monitoring plans, rules, regulations, and water security enhancements to ensure compliance with SDWA.

The bill extends the program for six years and authorizes funding of \$15 million per year. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on June 9, passed the House by voice vote on Nov. 30, and was enacted on Dec.11 as P.L. 114-98.

S.653, Water Resources Research Amendments Act

The legislation reauthorizes funding for water resources and research projects throughout the country. This legislation was reported out of the EPW Committee on May 18 and passed in the Senate on June 9. Inhofe is working to enact it into law in 2016.

FEDERAL GRANTS ASSISTING OKLAHOMA

Grant for City of Muskogee

In April 2015, the City of Muskogee was awarded an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant of \$1.5 million to support the upgrade of critical infrastructure to expand an existing industrial park, which will help sustain 238 jobs as well as create new job opportunities, and generate \$400,000 in private

investment. As a result of the improvements made possible by this grant, and the matching funds provided by the City of Muskogee Foundation, five companies have agreed to create or retain jobs and invest in the community as a result of the project, including Central Mortar and Grout, Glover Construction, American Foundry, Direct Traffic Control, and Frix Construction.

Grant for City of Durant

In September, the City of Durant was awarded an EDA grant of \$1.5 million to expand local surface transportation infrastructure and support the relocation of Commercial Metals, a global steel company, which will create 200 jobs in Durant and generate \$342 million in private investments. The grant has provided needed funding to improve a section of US-70 currently deemed in critical condition while also making routes more efficient for new business opportunities.

EPW Committee also reported the following important regulatory relief measures in 2015:

S. 544, Secret Science Reform Act of 2015 – requiring EPA to make public all science it used for regulations

S.1140, Federal Water Quality Protection Act – requiring EPA to start over with the WOTUS rule excluding areas which are not connected to navigable waters providing necessary relief for not simply agriculture but all sectors of our economy

S.1324, Affordable Reliable Electricity Now Act of 2015 – requiring EPA to delay enforcement of new climate change regulations on our nation's power plants which will result in a new energy tax on all Americans until technology is available and demonstrated to meet EPA's new requirements.

S.1500, Sensible Environmental Protection Act of 2015 – prevents duplicative permitting requirements on pesticide applications and enforces one stop EPA regulation.



CLEAN UP THE CLEAN WATER RULE

The EPA's water rule needs more input from farmers and small businesses.

By Sens. **Jim Inhofe**, **Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.)**, **John Barrasso (R-Wy.)**, and **Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.)**
 Published on Aug. 28, 2015

Whether you're a farmer in Indiana or a rancher in Wyoming, a Republican from Oklahoma or a Democrat from North Dakota – we all want clean water.

On Friday, EPA's new rule is supposed to go into effect and will attempt to redefine which sources of water can be regulated under the Clean Water Act. Thirty-one states and several industry groups have sued to prevent the rule from moving forward. The EPA wrote and finalized its "Waters of the United States" rule without consulting with some of the people who care about clean water the most: farmers, ranchers, small business owners.

The problem is that the rule, while well-intentioned, provides excessive burdens for small farmers and ranchers. As such, the new rules have created considerable and potentially costly confusion for many American businesses and communities who are just trying to do their jobs well.

EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule has raised concerns across nearly every sector of our economy, from agriculture, real estate and energy to construction, conservation and recreation. In fact, even our local communities – cities, towns, and counties – are expressing concern. The National Association of Counties said, "the flawed consultation process has resulted in a final rule that does not move us closer to achieving clean water goals and creates more confusion than clarity."

American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman said, "The only thing that is clear and certain is that, under this rule, it will be more difficult for private landowners to farm and ranch, build homes or make changes to the land – even if the changes that landowners propose would benefit the environment."

Most Americans believe we can get more accomplished when we work together. We agree. That's why we worked as a group to introduce bipartisan legislation, the Federal Water Quality Pro-

tection Act, which would direct the EPA write a better rule that better serves farmers, ranchers and small businesses by simply making sure that the agency works with our partners across the country to integrate the feedback from those who live and work alongside these waters every day. They are the ones EPA's rule most directly impacts, so they should have their voices heard about how the rule works or doesn't work – something that was missing before this rule was released.

This is something both parties can get behind, by focusing on commonsense principles to shape a final rule and requiring straightforward procedures that the EPA should have taken in its initial proposal. It simply asks EPA to take into account the feedback it has already received and go back and do the research and analysis that wasn't done the first time.

In the principles, we include explicit protections for waters that most everyone agrees should be covered, like our navigable waters and wetlands that filter out pollutants from our rivers and lakes. It also provides commonsense exemptions for isolated ponds and agricultural or roadside ditches, most of which EPA has indicated it never intended to cover.

More importantly, our bill is not designed to undermine the EPA's efforts, but rather to develop an effective, workable rule that gives consideration to those voices who will be most impacted by it. In fact, our bill encourages the EPA to thoroughly and appropriately complete its rule by December 31, 2016.

We need a Waters of the U.S. rule that works to keep our waters clean – something we can all agree upon – as do the communities, businesses and family farms that rely on clean water. Our bill recently passed the Senate Committee Environment and Public Works, and we are hopeful that the full Senate will vote on it soon.

No one wants cleaner water or better land conditions than the families who live on American farms, own American businesses and lead American communities. If we're going to write a rule that makes sense for the people who work with the land every day, we need to use their feedback.

IRAN

In 2015, the administration negotiated and signed a deal with Iran over the country's nuclear arms. Sen. Jim Inhofe has long opposed the United States negotiating a deal with the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism that has repeatedly threatened to wipe Israel off the face of the earth and called for the "death to America." The following are actions SInhofe has taken in Congress regarding Iran-U.S. policy:

On Jan. 28, Inhofe cosponsored S.269, *Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2015*, which requires that any agreement negotiated with Iran be submitted to Congress

for review within five days of the agreement being reached. It also prevents the president from waiving, suspending, reducing or providing relief from existing Iranian sanctions until Congress has reviewed the agreement. This legislation ultimately became Public Law 114-17 after passing the Senate in May.

On July 14, President Obama announced he had reached a deal with Iran regarding its nuclear program. The deal provides no guarantee of verification and allows Iran to block inspections of any suspected nuclear site for as long as 54 days. It also immediately provides up to \$150 billion of sanctions relief to Iran, which even Secretary of State John Kerry and the president's National Security Advisor, Susan Rice, admit will be used to fund terror. There remains deep skepticism within Congress that the president hasn't appropriately complied with the provisions of the law because there are a number of side agreements negotiated that have not been shared with Congress, which is in violation of P.L. 114-17. In the time since the deal was announced, Iran has tested two ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons, a clear violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929. In response to this, Inhofe and 35 of his colleagues wrote the president on Dec. 16, urging him to not lift sanctions against Iran.

On Dec. 18, Inhofe cosponsored S.2429, *Ending Iran's Nuclear Weapon Program Before Sanctions Relief Act*, which would prohibit the lifting of sanctions against Iran until has verifiably ended all military dimensions of its nuclear program.



LET THE STATES DO THE JOB OBAMA WON'T: SANCTION IRAN

By: Sen. Jim Inhofe and
Attorney General Scott Pruitt
Published on August 31, 2015

President Obama's executive agreement with Iran is enormously controversial for good reason. Negotiated in coordination with Russia, China, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, the deal welcomes Iran as a participant in the world community conditioned only on marginal changes to its nuclear program. It effectively allows Iran to maintain technology that would lead to a nuclear weapon, as well as continue its human-rights abuses, sponsoring of terrorism, imprisoning of American hostages, and threats to American allies, including Israel.

Fortunately, the U.S. states have the power to limit these threats, if they all choose to use it.

President Obama pursued this major international accord as an executive agreement, rather than as a treaty, in order to evade the Constitution's requirement of two-thirds approval by the U.S. Senate for enactment. The consequence of the president's decision to skirt the people's representatives in Congress is that the people, through the states, may come to their own decisions regarding sanctions on Iran.

To date, 25 states have enacted such sanctions against Iran. This is pursuant to the explicit authorization for such sanctions contained in the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, in which Congress found "that the United States should support the decision of any State or local government that for moral, prudential, or reputational reasons divests from, or prohibits the investment of assets of the State or local government in" Iran. These sanctions were bipartisan accomplishments in states from New York to Florida to Texas to California, and they were passed as expressions of those states' disapproval of a regime that holds American citizens in darkened cells and American allies under threat of annihilation.

Secretary of State John Kerry confirmed during July 28 congressional testimony that President Obama's deal does not affect the states' ability to impose sanctions on Iran, but said that the administration "will take steps to urge [the states] not to interfere," because President Obama had, as part of the deal, agreed to "actively encourage" the states to drop their sanctions.

We urge states to do exactly the opposite. Rather than drop their sanctions against Iran, states should strengthen and expand those sanctions. Regardless of President Obama's view of Iran, the states certainly have numerous moral and reputational reasons to prohibit the investment of public assets, such as pension funds, into companies doing business with countries that sponsor terrorism, and to prohibit state agencies from doing business with such companies... *Please visit www.inhofe.senate.gov to continue reading the op-ed.*

RUSSIA, UKRAINE

In 2015, the world watched as Russia invaded Crimea and showed further aggression toward Eastern Europe. Lethal aid should have been provided immediately to Ukraine to fight this aggression, but President Obama provided them with only sleeping bags and night vision goggles. On Feb. 11, Sen. Jim Inhofe introduced S. 452 to provide lethal weapons to Ukraine to assist it in defending itself against Russian-backed separatists



At a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in February, Inhofe questioned top foreign policy experts on the need to arm Ukraine to fight against Russia.

in Eastern Ukraine. Many top foreign policy experts, including Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, Madeleine Albright, Steven Pifer, and Michele Flournoy agree that lethal assistance should be provided to Ukraine. Language similar to S. 452 was included as Section 1250 of the National Defense Authorization Act, which was enacted in November 2015 as P.L. 114-92. Further, \$250 million was appropriated specifically to provide lethal assistance to Ukraine on Dec. 18.

MIDDLE EAST

In the past year the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has expanded its control in Iraq and Syria, and they continue to recruit followers worldwide. Most recently, the group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris, killing over 130 civilians; the shooting down of a Russian plane over Egypt, killing all passengers; and the attack in Istanbul, Turkey that killed 10.

The attack in California conducted by a husband and wife who had claimed allegiance to ISIL was the deadliest terrorist attack in the United States since Sept. 11, 2001. These recent events underscore the fact we face an enemy that has the weapons, skills, and willingness to strike innocent civilians outside and within our own borders. Inhofe believes it is vital that we decisively take action to defeat these terrorists and protect our country and its people. This begins with establishing a concrete strategy to destroy ISIL.

On Jan. 27, Inhofe sent a letter to Sec. John Kerry with 15 of his colleagues regarding the need to assist Assyrian Christians and other minorities of the Nineveh Plains in northern Iraq due to the invasion of ISIL.

On Feb. 9, Inhofe joined Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) on the Senate floor to urge Congress to support a new Authorization of the Use of Force (AUMF) against ISIL but only after the President provides a strategy to defeat ISIL.

On Feb. 11, Inhofe opposed the AUMF proposed by President Obama because it did not include a strategy and included limitations on time and engagement. Inhofe stated that an AUMF should not be limited by time, should not be limited by geography, and should not tie the hands of our military commanders with methods and tactics that limit flexibility. These statements were supported by then-Chairman of Joint Chiefs Dempsey who said: "Constraints on time, or a 'sunset clause,' I just don't think it's necessary. I think



Inhofe meeting with leaders of Saudi Arabia in early 2015 regarding U.S. leadership in the region and partnership with allies.

Middle East cont.

the nation should speak of its intent to confront this radical ideological barbaric group and leave the option until we can deal with it.”

On May 7, U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe met with the president of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Masoud Barzani, and discussed U.S. assistance to the Peshmerga. Inhofe gave his support for their request for assistance to continue their fight against ISIL.

SYRIAN REFUGEES

As a consequence of the instability in Syria caused by its president, Bashar al-Assad, Russia’s meddling, and the rise of ISIL, millions of Syrians have been displaced as refugees. President Obama has pledged to welcome more than 10,000 Syrian refugees into the United States.

On Sept. 25, Inhofe sent a letter to President Obama calling for a strong vetting process of Syrian refugees eligible to be resettled in the United States and for prioritization of orphaned children and persecuted religious minority groups. In the letter, Inhofe also emphasized that ultimately the Obama administration must put forward a comprehensive strategy in the region to provide a permanent, long-term solution to the refugee crisis.

On Dec. 2, Inhofe spoke on the floor express his rising concern about the security impacts of increasing the number of Syrian refugees allowed into the U.S. He also spoke about the threat posed by ISIL, the need for a Middle East strategy, and the fact that this is the root



At a Senate Armed Services Committee meeting in February, Inhofe spoke with Jordan’s King Abdullah hours after news broke of ISIL executing a Jordanian pilot.



Inhofe meeting with Iraq’s Minister of Defense at the Capitol in April to talk about U.S. military partnership with Iraq and defeating ISIL.

cause of the refugee crisis. Unless ISIL is destroyed, the refugee crisis will continue.

On Dec. 18, Inhofe sent a letter to President Obama regarding the threat to national security posed by brining additional Syrian refugees into the U.S. due to the proven willingness and capability of ISIL to use the Syrian refugee crisis to infiltrate our country. The letter requested the president provide Congress with detailed information on ISIL’s ability to infiltrate the U.S. to include the use of fake Syrian passports and actions that have been or are being taken to prevent ISIL from infiltrating U.S. borders using fake passports and other means.

Inhofe cosponsored S. 2435, the *Defend America Act of 2015*, in response to this growing crisis. S. 2435 would require the FBI, the director of National Intelligence, and the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to certify that each individual refugee, prior to being allowed into the United States, does not pose a security threat. The House passed its version of this bill 289-137 on Nov. 19. Senate Democrats blocked its consideration by a vote of 55-43 on Jan. 20.

Inhofe also cosponsored S. 2362, the *Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015*, which blocks individuals from traveling to the United States without a visa if they have traveled to Syria, Iraq, or other terrorist hotbeds in the last five years. This language was included as in P.L. 114-113 and was enacted on Dec. 18.

AFRICA

Sen. Jim Inhofe has made more than 140 country visits to the continent of Africa. In 2015, he visited US AFRICOM as well as the countries of Burundi, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. He has led the effort to build a United States military presence in Africa to assist in the training of local governments to fight against terrorist organizations. He has also worked on policy solutions that promote trade and energy security in order to help lift people out of poverty.



On April 3, Inhofe along with Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and Representatives Vern Buchanan (FL-16), Joe Barton (TX-06), Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-02), and Tim Walberg (MI-07) visited the country of Burundi, where they had meetings with President Pierre Nkurunziza as well as members of the Parliament of Burundi. On June 26, Inhofe sent a letter to Sec. John Kerry calling for open and transparent elections in Burundi. On Dec. 9, Inhofe delivered a speech on the Senate floor, highlighting the need for opposing factions within Burundi to work together to end violence and commence a dialogue with third parties. They have since done that and are continuing to address the issues.



On May 19, Inhofe and Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) introduced the S. 1479, the *African Free Trade Initiative Act*, which would require the president to establish a plan to negotiate and enter into Free Trade Agreements in sub-Saharan Africa. It would also require the United States Trade Representative, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and USAID to coordinate and collaborate together on how to implement the goals established in the Free Trade Agreement plans.

On July 30, Inhofe cosponsored S.Res.237 condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) for continuing to perpetrate crimes against humanity, war crimes, and mass atrocities. The resolution also supports ongoing efforts by the U.S. government, the African Union and governments in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and LRA commanders from the battlefield. This follows on Inhofe's successful effort to enact legislation (Public Law 111-172) authorizing military assistance to the region to disarm the LRA.

TAIWAN

As co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus with U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Inhofe has been a staunch advocate for advancing support for Taiwan, both nationally and internationally. Taiwan remains a close friend and ally of the United States and shares common values and beliefs, including commitments to democracy, free trade and security. Inhofe successfully increased security assistance for Taiwan, which resulted in the \$1.83 billion planned arms package sale announced on Dec. 17, the first major sale of U.S. weapons to Taiwan in four years. This package is an important step toward fulfilling the United States' commitment to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Inhofe encouraged the administration to consider the resumption of a regular and routine process for the provision of security assistance to Taiwan, in order to maintain Taiwan's self-defense capabilities.

ISRAEL

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe has been a life-long supporter of the state of Israel. In 2015, Inhofe took several legislative steps in Congress to ensure America's support of Israel's sovereignty to include \$8.1 billion for Israeli missile defense programs in the FY'16 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which includes \$150 million to begin production of David's Sling, a medium to long range missile defense system.

On Jan. 9, Inhofe cosponsored S.117, the *Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act*, which would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and orders the relocation of the United States embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. It would also direct that all official US documents that list countries and their capital cities identify Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

On Jan. 19, Inhofe along with 74 Senators sent a letter to Sec. John Kerry strongly opposing Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas' decision to seek membership before the International Criminal Court. This effort contravenes the spirit of earlier agreements between Israel and the PA and erodes the prospects for peace.

On Feb. 12, Inhofe cosponsored S. Res. 76 ,which welcomed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the U.S. for his address to a joint session of Congress on March 3. After the speech, Inhofe stated that Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech reminded us not only of Israel's role as America's long standing and closest ally in the Middle East, but also that Iran is the greatest threat to stability in the Middle East.

On June 8, Inhofe cosponsored an amendment to the fiscal year 2016 NDAA that would provide for cooperation between the US and Israel on anti-tunnel capabilities, an important security measure for Israel.

On Nov. 4, Inhofe cosponsored S.Res. 302 that condemned Palestinian terror attacks against Israelis, supported Israel's right to self-defense, rejected any suggestion of the moral equivalence of Israeli security personnel protecting its citizens from violence and terrorists intent on taking innocent lives, and called on President Abbas to take all steps necessary to halt these attacks. The resolution passed the Senate on Nov. 10.

“Prime Minister Netanyahu’s speech reminded us not only of Israel’s role as America’s long standing and closest ally in the Middle East, but also that Iran is the greatest threat to stability in the Middle East. Iran’s record stands for itself – it cannot be trusted. Iran remains the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, continues its efforts to develop nuclear weapons and has directly threatened the existence of Israel and the United States. I stand with Netanyahu’s demands today that Iran’s government must change its behaviors.”

*-U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe on March 3
following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s
address to a joint session of Congress*



Inhofe meets with EMT professionals from Oklahoma in April 2015.

Dismantling Obamacare

President Obama made many promises to the American people in 2010 about how Obamacare would improve healthcare for everyone. He said it was going to lower costs, expand access, and make healthcare more affordable. Yet, five years after this law's passage, Obamacare has only increased premiums and deductibles, cut down employee work hours and threatened the religious liberty of many employers who are providing needed jobs in a slow economy. Oklahomans will see an average increase of 35.7 percent in premium prices in 2016 – which is the highest in the nation.

In December, Sen. Jim Inhofe voted in favor of H.R. 3762, the *Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act*. This bill repeals key components of Obamacare, including the Individual Mandate, the Employer Mandate, the Medical Device Tax, the Cadillac Tax, the Medicaid Expansion, over \$1 trillion in Obamacare taxes, and a number of Obamacare subsidies. The House passed H.R. 3762 on Jan. 6, 2016, and President Obama vetoed the bill on Jan. 8.

Inhofe also coauthored a number of bills that represent key victories in the effort to undermine Obamacare, including:

S. 123, the *Obamacare Taxpayer Bailout Protection Act of 2015*, a bill that prevents the Obama administration from bailing out insurance companies through the Risk Corridor program designed by Obamacare to use taxpayer money to shore up losses at insurance companies. A prohibition on funding this provision for 2016 was enacted as Section 225 of P.L. 114-113 in December 2015.

S.141, the *Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015*, which repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board. The IPAB has long been seen as having the potential to ration care among seniors. A prohibition on funding this provision for 2016 was enacted as Section 528 of P.L. 114-113 in December 2015.

S. 149, the *Medical Device Access and Innovation Protection Act*, which repeals the 2.3 percent excise tax Obamacare imposed on all medical devices. A two year delay of this

tax was enacted as Section 174 of the *Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015* enacted as P.L. 114-113 in December.

S. 183, the *Jobs and Premium Protection Act*, which repeals the health insurance tax imposed by Obamacare. A one-year delay of this tax was enacted as Section 201 of Title II of P.L. 114-113 in December 2015.

S. 2045, the *Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2015*, which repeals the tax Obamacare imposes on high value health insurance plans. A two-year delay of this tax was enacted as Section 101 of Title I of P.L. 114-113 in December 2015.

S. 1099, the *PACE Act*, which keeps the definition of “small group market” from expanding to include businesses with 51-100 employees. Currently, the definition includes only businesses with up to 50 employees. Without this bill, ObamaCare regulations that would have forced significant increases in healthcare costs next year on these employers. S. 1099's House companion legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent and was enacted as P.L. 114-60 on Oct. 7.

Advancing Innovative Care

Inhofe introduced S. 2262, the *CT Colonography Screening for Colorectal Cancer Act of 2015*. This legislation would provide coverage under Medicare for CT (virtual) Colonography (CTC) screening. More than two years ago, a virtual colonoscopy saved Inhofe's life and alerted him of other health conditions. With this advanced procedure becoming more accessible nationwide, it is time for Medicare to provide this as an option in order to encourage early, preventative screening. This bill takes steps to promote early detection, which will enable many to be successfully treated and cured from this disease.

“It is a tragedy that on average one hundred Americans die each day from colon cancer when at least 90 could be saved with timely screening. It is vital that we have access to CT Colonography as a screening option for those who cannot, or will not have a colonoscopy. I applaud Sen. Inhofe for his leadership on this effort.”

-Eric R. Hargis, chief executive officer
for the Colon Cancer Alliance

President Obama has pursued reckless immigration policies since he first came to office, to include his illegal executive actions to provide amnesty to 5 million illegal immigrants, his support of sanctuary cities, and general refusal to enforce federal immigration laws. Sen. Jim Inhofe has relentlessly fought against these policies with the following initiatives:

Inhofe introduced S.291, the *Keep Our Communities Safe Act of 2015*. This bill allows for the detention period of criminal aliens that have not been deported to be renewed so that they can be kept in custody until deportation can be

arranged. In 2014 alone, President Obama released 30,500 criminal immigrants with a combined 78,000 convictions back into our communities. President Obama has done nothing to address the current policy that requires the release of criminal aliens after being held for six months, even if they have been ordered for deportation by a judge. Inhofe's legislation closes this loophole, which would keep dangerous criminals out of our communities.

Inhofe is also a coauthor of the following legislation that addresses President Obama's harmful immigration policies:

S. 1640, *Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act*, which would defund President Obama's executive amnesty, authorize state and local governments to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, bar sanctuary jurisdictions from receiving certain federal grants, and provide additional resources and support for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers to bolster their ability to enforce immigration laws. The bill would also allow for the imposition of sanctions against countries who do not take their national citizens back, preventing foreign nationals who pose a security threat from entering and remaining in the United States.

S.1842, *Protecting American Lives Act*, which would make it unlawful for states or localities to have sanctuary policies that prevent the enforcement of federal immigration laws. The legislation would penalize states

and localities with sanctuary policies by redirecting federal law enforcement funds and grants away from these cities toward those that do comply with federal policies and assist in their enforcement. The bill would also require states to report any alien subject to deportation to the federal government and provides immunity to local law enforcement officials who are acting in accordance to federal law. Companion legislation, S. 2146, which Inhofe also supported, received a vote in the Senate on Oct. 20, but it was blocked by Democrats by a vote of 54-45.

S. 2193, *Kate's Law*, would increase the criminal penalties for illegal aliens who reenter the United States after they have already been deported. This bill was introduced following the tragic death of Kate Steinle who was murdered in San Francisco in July by Juan Francisco, a previously deported criminal alien who returned to the United States illegally.

S.686, a bill that would prevent illegal immigrants who receive work permits under President Obama's illegal executive amnesty from claiming the earned income tax credit for any year the person was not lawfully present or authorized to work in the United States.

S.1032, the *Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act*, which would make the e-verify program permanent and require all US employers to participate in the program, ensuring that jobs are filled by Americans and other legally authorized workers.

Inhofe is also the principal author of S. 678, the *English Language Unity Act*, which would make English the official language of the U.S. government.

“A federal judge has confirmed what the rest of the nation has known all this time, that the president overstepped his legal authority to grant amnesty to roughly 5 million illegal immigrants. I applaud the U.S. Southern District Court of Texas for acknowledging the untold cost the president's actions will have on our states, and I commend Attorney General Scott Pruitt and the state of Oklahoma for helping lead the charge against these unconstitutional actions.”

- U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe said on Feb. 7 after a federal court blocked the president's executive amnesty program

This year the Department of Labor (DOL) has issued many rules and regulations that will harm our economy. Three are of particular concern that U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe has worked to stop:

The ambush election rule by the National Labor Review Board would enable labor unions to stage elections to unionize workers with as little as ten days' notice. The rule forces the release of workers' personal information to unions, undermining the rights of employers and employees alike. The condensed timetable for unionization also makes it more difficult for workers to be educated about the potential negative effects of unionization, such as the opportunity to be paid more for superior performance. Inhofe cosponsored S. J. Res 8, a resolution to disapprove of the ambush election rule. The Senate passed this resolution on March 4, and the House followed suit on March 19, but the president vetoed it on March 31.

The joint employer ruling by the National Labor Review Board, which would treat franchisors and franchisees as one employer for the purpose of making it easier for labor unions to organize employees. This rule is problematic because the parent companies of franchise businesses do not regularly get involved in the day-to-day management of retail operations, where employees are most likely to unionize. It is much more appropriate for unionization to occur at the local level of a franchised business so that the direct owner can continue to maintain the primary management responsibility over employees. To address this, Inhofe cosponsored S. 2015, which would repeal the rule.

The DOL's overtime rule that would force businesses to double the upper threshold under which all salaried workers must be given time-and-a-half pay. Under this rule, businesses will now be incentivized to lay off higher paid workers and replace them with lower paid employees. This regulation will also discourage businesses from establishing incentive based compensation structures. Similar to the mandatory minimum wage increase, an increase in labor costs means a business will either need to raise prices on their products or services or scale back on the number of employees they have to keep prices down. Inhofe sent a letter to DOL on Sept. 4 expressing his concerns for this rule being finalized and requesting the comment period be extended so that the full impact can be evaluated.

Inhofe also cosponsored the following bills to improve the workplace:

S.1874, the *Employee Rights Act*, which would guarantee employees the right to a secret ballot election when deciding whether to join a union. Prevent unions from using employees' dues and fees for purposes unrelated to their bargaining functions – including political contributions and expenditures – without an the employees' written consent and prevents ambush elections.

S.248, the *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act*, which would exempt tribal owned businesses located on tribal lands from burdensome NLRB standards.

LABOR

OKC BOMBING 20TH ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing, Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford coauthored S. Res. 139. The text of the resolution acknowledges the Oklahoma City bombing as one of the worst terrorist attacks on United States' soil, killing 168 people and injuring more than 850. It commends the remarkable efforts of first responders in Oklahoma and across the nation that day and in the weeks following who lent their services to assist the injured, comfort the community, and provide support to those affect by the terrorist act. The resolution also celebrates the fulfillment of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, and applauds the people of Oklahoma City for making tremendous progress over the past two decades, demonstrating perseverance as they stand as a beacon to the rest of the United States attesting to the strength of goodness in overcoming evil wherever it arises in our midst. It passed the Senate on April 16 by unanimous consent.

“WHAT AROSE FROM THE RUBBLE THAT DAY WAS THE OKLAHOMA STANDARD – STRANGERS HELPING STRANGERS, GIVING SACRIFICIALLY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR GREAT STATE.”

- U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe

Inhofe speaks with a local police officer in Guthrie in August 2015.



Sen. Jim Inhofe supported the passage of S. 178, the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act*, which provides law enforcement officials with stronger means to prosecute human trafficking offenses and recognizes child pornography production as a form of human trafficking. Furthermore, S. 178 authorizes a fund to cover the cost of services to victims of human trafficking paid for, in part, by a \$5,000 fine for convicted sex offenders, human

smugglers and human traffickers. S. 178 passed the Senate on April 22, and was signed into law on May 29 as P.L. 114-22. Inhofe filed amendment #276 to the human trafficking bill to close a loophole used by the Obama administration to allow unaccompanied alien children to remain in the United States rather than being sent back to their home countries when it is clear they are not victims of human trafficking. Senate Democrats blocked consideration of Inhofe's amendment.

“Last summer as waves of children crossed our southern border, the administration claimed that the William Wilberforce Trafficking Act of 2008 created a loophole that allows unaccompanied alien children to remain in the United States. While their cases wind their way through the immigration courts, these children often disappear and rarely return for their court hearings. My amendment would remove any excuse from the Obama administration that is preventing the government from sending UACs back to their home countries when it is clear the children are not victims of human trafficking.” - U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe on March 11

Inhofe also coauthored S. 295, the *Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act of 2015*, which amends the victim restitution statute for victims of child pornography to allow them to collect more damages, receive real and timely restitution, and to allow defendants to spread the costs of restitution among themselves. The Senate passed this bill on Feb. 11 by a vote of 98-0.

Inhofe was also a coauthor of S.238, the *Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015*, which provides pepper spray to correctional officers at medium- and high-security federal prisons. The Senate passed S. 238 by unanimous consent on Dec. 16.

Inhofe is also the cosponsor of the following legislation designed to improve law enforcement:

- S. 11, the *ENFORCE the Law Act of 2015*, which would allow for either or both Chambers to enact a resolution to bring a civil action to require the enforcement of the law if the president or an agency establishes a policy of not enforcing enacted laws, which is what the president is bound by the Constitution to do.
- S. 378, the *Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015*, which would end the practice of enacting federal regulations through sue-and-settle litigation and restores the transparency, public participation and judicial review protections of the rulemaking process.
- S. 1770, the *Youth PROMISE Act*, which provides grant opportunities to organizations and programs that aim to keep children off the streets and out of prison through results-based initiatives.
- S. 2034, the *Thin Blue Line Act*, which would impose harsher penalties on criminals that target law enforcement officers and first responders.

The uncovering of practices by Planned Parenthood to profit from the sale of harvested tissue shocked the nation. Sen. Jim Inhofe has always opposed federal funding for Planned Parenthood because it promotes abortion as a means of family planning; however, the allegations raised in the sting videos produced by the Center for Medical Progress revealed that the organization has potentially been engaged in criminal activity. On July 22, Inhofe joined his Senate Republican colleagues in sending a letter to the secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the allegations of Planned Parenthood and asking that they be investigated.

It was clear the Obama administration had no intention of investigating, so to address this Inhofe introduced a bill, S. 1877, to both investigate and defund Planned Parenthood. The bill requires the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Planned Parenthood's alleged violation of federal law, including changing or delaying abortion procedures for the sole purpose of harvesting fetal tissue and selling fetal tissue for profit.

Inhofe also sent a letter on Oct. 9 to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting that they review human fetal tissue acquisition and research practices. GAO responded on Nov. 12 accepting the request and committed to begin the investigation in 2016.

The new Republican Senate Majority as a whole has taken more steps to address the sanctity of life than any other Senate in recent years. This started with action on S. 1881, a bill designed to address the Planned Parenthood allegations by repealing their federal funding and redirecting it to community health centers. This bill was coauthored by Inhofe, but Democrats blocked it from proceeding by a vote of 53-46. Redirecting Planned Parenthood funding to community health centers is appropriate because there are over 13,540 community health centers around the country compared to only 665 Planned Parenthood facilities.

On Dec. 3, however, Inhofe voted in favor of H.R. 3762, which repeals Obamacare and defunds Planned Parenthood. The Senate passed the bill 52-47. On Jan. 6, 2016, the House passed the bill 240-181, making the bill the first piece of legislation to reach the President's desk that repeals Obamacare and defunds Planned Parenthood. Not surprisingly, the president chose to continue promoting the abortion of babies and vetoed the bill on Jan. 8.

Inhofe was also a coauthor of S. 1553, the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, which would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks of fetal age. This is the point at which science and medical experts have determined a baby can feel pain. The House passed its version of the bill, H.R. 36, by a vote of 242-184. When the Senate acted to advance the same legislation, Senate Democrats again blocked it procedurally by a vote of 54-42, though a majority of Senators supported it.

Inhofe also cosponsored the following pro-life bills:

- S. 404, the *Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act*, a bill authored by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fl.) that would prohibit taking minors across state lines to avoid state parental notification laws. The bill would require that parents be notified before an abortion is performed on an out-of-state minor.
- S. 582, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015*, which would provide for a permanent, government-wide prohibition against tax money going toward abortions to include funding that falls outside of the appropriations process.
- S. 2066, the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*, would require that an abortion survivor get the same treatment that would be given to a naturally born premature baby of the same age. Children born alive are recognized under federal law, and this bill would criminalize the action of abortionists that deny care to those who survive an abortion.

Sen. Jim Inhofe believes in traditional marriage and stands by his convictions. The institution of marriage has been understood to be between a man and a woman for the entire history of this country and long before. Marriage is a religious institution as well and by redefining the institution of marriage, religious liberty is threatened.

In April, Inhofe submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court of the United States along with 56 of his colleagues advising the Justices to practice judicial restraint when deciding *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court did not take this view and superseded the active debate happening in every state by citizens and their representative government and held that states are required to license and recognize same-sex marriage.

Prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Inhofe was an original cosponsor of S.435, *State Marriage Defense Act*. This bill would have prevented the federal government from determining that the terms "marriage" or "spouse" include any relationships not recognized by a state.

Before and since the *Obergefell* decision, Americans are facing persecution when they choose to not participate in same-sex wedding ceremonies and celebrations. Protecting religious liberty is a priority for those who truly stand for the Constitution. As such, Inhofe is an original cosponsor of S.1598, the *First Amendment Defense Act*. If passed, this bill will prohibit the government from discriminating against individuals and religious institutions for their sincerely held beliefs that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.

Religious Freedom in our military

On April 2, Inhofe wrote to the Secretary of the Navy regarding Lieutenant Commander Wes Modder, a Navy Chaplain, to challenge the inappropriate discipline action taken against Modder, who shared his biblical views during a counseling session with sailors who sought his guidance. Following Inhofe's letter, Chaplain Modder was exonerated and was allowed to continue serving in the Navy in good standing.

Inhofe boasts an A+ rating from the National Rifle Association for his tireless work defending 2nd Amendment rights. Over the last year, President Obama continued his efforts to roll back our constitutional rights to bear arms, but Inhofe led the way in blocking these actions.

UN Arms Trade Treaty

On Sept. 25, 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry signed the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (UNATT) on behalf of the United States. This treaty, if ratified, would allow the United Nations to regulate the use of guns in America. To fight against this, Inhofe offered amendment #649 to the 2016 budget resolution to block funding for the implementation of the treaty. The amendment passed 59-41 on March 26. To further secure the United States from the UNATT, Inhofe successfully included sections 536, 564, 7062, and 8118, of the annual appropriations bill, which was enacted as P.L. 114-113 on Dec. 18, successfully blocking any federal appropriations dollars from being used for the treaty, keeping the United States from participating in the treaty without Senate ratification.



Combating the Regulation of Ammunition

On March 9, Inhofe sent a letter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) after it announced a framework to make popular rifle ammunition illegal. As a result of Inhofe's letter, the ATF revoked its proposal on March 10, and stopped working on it.

Defending the 2nd Amendment Rights of our Service Members, Veterans, & Law Enforcement Officers

The terrorist attacks on military recruiters in Chattanooga, Ten. on July 16 resulted in the deaths of four Marines, one Sailor and injuries to others. This occurrence again raised great concerns about the security of our service members in and out of uniform and the impact current policies have on their ability to effectively defend themselves against attack. On July 20, Inhofe formally requested that the Senate Armed Services Committee hold a hearing on this topic and introduced S. 1988, which instructs the Department of Defense to allow commanders to increase the security levels of their facilities (to include off-base facilities) by, among other things, arming service members

with weapons. The substance of S. 1988 was enacted as Section 526 of the National Defense Authorization Act, which became P.L. 114-92 on Nov. 25.

Inhofe also coauthored:

- S.1992, the *Protect Our Military Families' 2nd Amendment Rights Act* authored by Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), would allow licensed firearm importers, manufacturers and dealers to ship firearms to the spouses of service members if used for sporting purposes.
- S.368, the *Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act of 2015*, would allow correctional officers to carry a firearm to and from work to ensure their safety during commutes. Correctional officials are regularly targeted by criminals, and this legislation would enhance their security by authorizing the provision of a firearm storage area outside the secure area of the prison.



Enduring Tax Relief for Oklahomans

On Dec. 18, the Senate passed permanent tax relief for small businesses and individuals and it was enacted as P.L. 114-113.

The law makes a number of tax provisions that are important to Oklahomans permanent, including:

- The research and development tax credit used by innovative businesses across the country. This tax credit encourages companies to invest in new technology to create and support the jobs of tomorrow. In the past decade, this provision was only extended by just a few years at a time.
- Section 179 ensures Oklahoma small businesses will be able to expense \$500,000 in equipment purchases each year. This provision will provide Oklahoma farmers and small businesses the long-term certainty needed to make the best possible decisions when investing capital into their business property or when purchasing equipment to expand their businesses and create jobs.
- The exclusion of military basic housing allowances from determining income for housing program eligibility, ensuring our military service members are able to secure the housing their families need.
- The 20 percent employer wage credit for employees called to active military service, encouraging employers to retain employees during periods they are called to serve. This bill also modifies the provision so that it applies to all employers instead of just those with 50 or fewer employees.
- The child tax credit to assist low income Oklahomans while ensuring the provision is not abused by requiring individuals to have a Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer ID number to qualify for receiving the credit in any amended filings.

Indian Lands Accelerated Depreciation

On April 15, U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe introduced legislation to make permanent the Indian Lands Accelerated Depreciation tax provision, which encourages development and investment in Oklahoma by allowing businesses to depreciate business property at an accelerated rate when it is placed into service on former or current Indian lands. This provision was a leading reason Macy's invested \$170 million in a state-of-the-art facility

in Owasso, Okla. that is expected to create 1,500 new permanent jobs and an additional 1,000 more during the Christmas shopping season. Inhofe has introduced this legislation in every Congress since 2005.

Language extending this provision through 2016 was enacted as Section 167 of P.L. 114-113 in December, and it included a modification sought by Sen. Inhofe that makes the provision elective to the taxpayer, providing Oklahoma companies with flexibility to choose the depreciation schedule that best suits their needs.

Inhofe speaking at the Macy's groundbreaking ceremony.



Advancing Oklahoma Energy

On April 15, Inhofe introduced S. 948, a bill that would permanently eliminate the taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties. This provision would encourage the continued production of marginal wells, which account for nearly 28 percent of domestic production in the lower 48 states, in order to achieve energy independence. There are over 770,000 marginal wells in the United States.

Holding the IRS Accountable

Inhofe is a coauthor of S. 273, a bill prohibiting the intentional discrimination of a person or organization by an employee of the Internal Revenue Service. This bill was introduced in response to the IRS's practice of discriminating against conservative nonprofits and preventing them from getting the approvals they needed on a timely basis. Language related to S. 273 was enacted as Section 407 of the *Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015*, which was included in P.L. 114-113 and enacted on Dec. 18. It gives the IRS explicit authority to terminate any employee who takes official actions (to include delaying official actions) for political purposes. In addition, it establishes a clear appeal procedure process for organizations facing an adverse determination of their tax-exempt status.



THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) SERVES 22 MILLION VETERANS AND 26.3 MILLION FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS. THE TREATMENT OF OUR COUNTRY’S VETERANS IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SEN. JIM INHOFE.

Veterans Choice Card Program

On Feb. 25, Inhofe joined a letter with 51 other senators to VA Sec. Bob McDonald conveying serious concerns regarding VA’s implementation of the Choice Card Program, which allows veterans to receive local care from physicians if the VA would not be able to treat them within 40 miles of the individual’s residence. The letter asks the Secretary to modify the way the distance criteria is calculated so that the Choice Program is implemented as Congress intended, specifically by removing the overly narrow definition without delay. Inhofe successfully championed the eligibility criteria to ensure it is based off of driving distance, and this change was included as Section 4005 of Public Law 114-41, which was enacted on July 3.

Tulsa VA Facility

Many VA medical facilities around the country are old and in need of desperate repair or replacement in order to provide our veterans the care and services they deserve. Tulsa’s VA clinic is one of the worst in the country. Last year, Congress passed a comprehensive VA reform bill that included funding to lease a new clinic in Tulsa; however, the final legislation included language making it more difficult for the VA to implement the new lease in Tulsa. In the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, Inhofe successfully removed this language in Section 1094 of P.L. 114-92, ensuring Oklahoma veterans get a new, more capable clinic in Tulsa before 2020, when the current clinic will be forced to close because it does not meet current building requirements.

Oversight of Oklahoma's VA facilities

As a result of whistleblowers and media reports, more concerns with the operational integrity of Oklahoma's VA facilities came to light. In response to this growing concern, Inhofe personally worked cases with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Directors of both Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 16 and 19, and had the VA conduct multiple investigations of Oklahoma VA facilities. He also brought VA leadership from the VISNs 16 and 19 to Oklahoma to meet with veterans, medical staff, and medical providers so that they could better appreciate the nature of the challenges facing Oklahoma's facilities.

OKLAHOMA HONOR



Following an unacceptable inspection of Muskogee by the VA's Office of the Inspector General, Inhofe called VA Sec. Bob McDonald who sent his Chief of Staff, Rob Nabors, to Muskogee to investigate. This was followed by a visit by the director of VISN 19, Ralph Gigliotti, and a visit in December by two VISN 19 teams to look at quality of care, management and work environment at the Muskogee VA Medical Center.



Inhofe worked with veterans, doctors, and VA employees who have come forward to identify deficiencies in the system. His efforts resulted in VISN 19 actively investigating all of Oklahoma's VA hospitals, and their efforts have already exposed dangerous practices that were taking place, to include 'hard stops' and the manipulation of wait lists for important procedures. Sen. Inhofe is continuing his work to address these problems and reform their healthcare systems.



Inhofe also began an initiation to reform and refocus the VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG), an office that has become ineffective. At the beginning of 2016, Inhofe introduced a bill to expand the authority within the VA to fire staff that are failing to work in the best interest of our veterans. He also held up the nomination for the new Inspector General until an agreement was made for the agency to investigate Oklahoma's hospitals again but with the aid of an outside, private entity. Inhofe has promised to continue conducting oversight and placing pressure from all angles until Oklahoma's VA hospitals show significant signs of progress and improvement.

FLIGHT



In 2015, Inhofe supported in the following legislative actions to benefit our veterans:

S. 12, the *Hire More Heroes Act*, which allows employers to hire post 9/11 veterans who already receive TRICARE health care services through the DOD or VA and exempt them from the total number of full time employees requiring health care as outlined Obamacare’s employer mandate. This bill was enacted as Sec. 4007 of P.L. 114-41.

S. 167, the *Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act*, which directs the VA secretary to conduct annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs at the VA. It also requires a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration. The House companion of this legislation was enacted as Public Law 114-2 on Feb. 12.



S. 1603, the *Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015*, which directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to expedite the hiring of qualified candidates who have the ability to perform the essential functions of the position of a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer and who are eligible for a veterans recruitment appointment. The bill also requires DHS to enhance its recruiting of members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as CBP officers. The House version of this legislation, H.R. 2835, was enacted as Public Law 114-68 on Nov. 16.



Inhofe supported H.R. 2029, which provides \$163.8 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding for VA. This includes medical services for 6.9 million patients, major and minor hospital construction and maintenance to correct safety issues and deficiencies, veteran disability compensation programs for 4.7 million veterans and their survivors, education benefits for nearly 1.2 million veterans, and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for over 130,000 veterans. This bill was enacted on Dec. 18, as P.L. 114-113.

OP-EDS WRITTEN BY SEN. JIM INHOFE

THE HILL: Planning for long term key to economic health, February 24: “Thanks to the vision of President Dwight Eisenhower, the United States has been a global leader in transportation, which, in turn, has given us a world-class military and provided a stage for every American to access economic opportunity. But lately, our infrastructure has failed to keep up, largely due to funding uncertainty with the Highway Trust Fund and a lack of long-term authorization bills. While the United States struggles to maintain the existing conditions of our transportation system, our global competitors are greatly outpacing us in their infrastructure investments.”

DAILY CALLER: Setting the terms of debate: read this senator’s letter to the editor the Washington Post refused to publish, March 11: “The Washington Post recently published an editorial attempting to discredit a recent speech I made on the U.S. Senate floor. I wanted to respond to the paper and set the record straight about why I gave the speech, so I submitted an op-ed and an alternative “Letter to the Editor” to the Washington Post.”

CNBC: Proposed ozone rules are ‘irresponsible’, March 17: “The Environmental Protection Agency’s proposal to lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone distorts the need for balance between environmental progress and economic growth.”

TIME: Sen. Inhofe: Who Will Be Held Accountable for Bergdahl Swap?, March 26: “The president has set a dangerous standard Our nation has always, and will always, do everything within its power to bring our service men and women home and account for every last one who did not return, no matter the circumstances. Our military men and women know that when they are sent into harm’s way, they will never be left behind.”

USA TODAY: The real climate embarrassment: Opposing view, March 31: “The greatest embarrassment in the debate of human-driven climate change is that the administration — along with congressional Democrats and radical environmentalists — has found it easier to attack the messengers than the content of their message. Alarmists have been critical of anyone with opposing views but have failed to be forthcoming with the data and science behind their hysteria. Despite inconclusive data, the administration continues to rely upon one-sided information to justify costly regulations.”

TULSA WORLD: U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe and Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt: Senate Bill 676 protects Oklahoma businesses, families from EPA’s overreach, April 1: “As two of the most ardent critics of President Obama’s Climate Action Plan, we are pleased Oklahoma is taking a leading role at the state and federal level in challenging the administration’s attempt to use EPA regulations to set forth a national energy plan. For years, state environmental regulators worked to improve the state’s air quality and protect the health of local citizens. Despite long-standing success, the Obama administration is attempting to commandeer the role of state environmental regulators, taking it a step further to dictate what type of power can be used to power Oklahoman’s homes and businesses.”

FOX NEWS: Obama exploits the environment for his new global carbon goals, April 1: “On Monday, the Obama administration formally pledged to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent compared to 2005 levels. This pledge comes despite agreements with China that will allow the country to emit more CO2 in one month than the \$479 billion regulation under the Clean Power Plan will reduce in the United States within one year.”

CNN: Obama should embrace nuclear energy, April 22: “If there was ever any doubt that the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan is an energy policy plan, not a carbon reduction plan, all you have to do is look at how they treat nuclear energy.”

AND PUBLISHED IN 2015

THE OKLAHOMAN: Jim Inhofe: A call to support those orphaned by Ebola in West Africa, May 2:

“It’s been six months since the United States has seen a confirmed case of Ebola within our borders. In West Africa, the reported number of cases has not peaked since October. As the fear and concern displayed in Western media has become more subdued, the people of West Africa continue to need our support.”

FOX NEWS: Why Every Property Owner Should Fear EPA’s “Waters of the United States” Rule, June 2:

“The Environmental Protection Agency released its final rule last week defining “waters of the United States” (WOTUS), a measure that hugely expands the ability of this aggressive agency to disregard the conservation efforts of American states and interfere with the daily lives and property of the American people. Not only does this final rule break promises EPA has made, but it claims federal powers even beyond what EPA originally proposed a year ago. This will drastically affect—for the worse-- the ability of many Americans to use and enjoy their property.”

ARMY TIMES: Commentary: Delay privatizing commissaries, June 11:“Privatizing military commissaries before conducting an assessment of the costs and benefits of such significant reform is irresponsible. The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2016 that is being considered by the Senate would put into motion a pilot program to privatize five commissaries on major installations over the next two years. This is not a litmus test. Once you begin to privatize the most popular military benefit, it would be nearly impossible to reverse course should it cause more harm than good.”

TULSA WORLD EDITORIAL: Inhofe needs support for much-needed transportation act, June 25: “The United States transportation network — especially its system of highways and bridges — is vital to the economic, safety and security of the country. And it has fallen into dangerous disrepair. Sen. Jim Inhofe, long a champion of transportation issues and chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, has taken a leadership role in the effort to correct that.”

TULSA WORLD: Sen. Jim Inhofe: America must rebuild its transportation system, June 26: “Our nation has a long lineage of transportation vitality. President Eisenhower knew this in 1956 when he authorized the Interstate Highway Act. His vision, that the “...transportation system (is) a dynamic element in the very name we bear — United States ... and without (it), we would be a mere alliance of many separate parts,” remains true today. Our roads and bridges are a vital aspect of our nation’s security and economic prosperity.”

THE OKLAHOMAN: Prospect of long-term road bill from D.C. is encouraging, June 26: “OKLAHOMA’S Jim Inhofe regularly ranks as one of the most conservative members of the U.S. Senate, a distinction he wears proudly. Sen. Barbara Boxer, Democrat from California, is at the other end of the ideological spectrum. Yet these two see eye to eye on the need to take care of America’s roads and bridges. Polarization in the nation’s capital? It’s not in evidence on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where Inhofe, R-Tulsa, is chairman and Boxer is the ranking member.”

FOX NEWS: The dirty business of Obama’s so-called Clean Power Plan, August 4: “President Obama’s carbon mandates finalized on Monday are nothing more than a smokescreen for bureaucratic actions that will not withstand judicial scrutiny, which has become common place for rulemaking under this administration. Adjustments from the proposed to final rule consist of tricky, legal maneuvering meant to delay injured parties’ day in court.”

TEXT

TULSA TODAY: Education is not one size fits all, August 19: “No Child Left Behind was long overdue for reform, and on July 16, Congress passed the bipartisan Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA), which returns and refocuses education standards back to local communities and its leaders, teachers and parents who know our children the best. The main problem with having Washington hold the reins of the nation’s education system is the fact that education is not one size fits all.”

U.S. NEWS: Clean up the Clean Water Rule, August 28: “Whether you’re a farmer in Indiana or a rancher in Wyoming, a Republican from Oklahoma or a Democrat from North Dakota – we all want clean water. On Friday, EPA’s new rule is supposed to go into effect and will attempt to redefine which sources of water can be regulated under the Clean Water Act. Thirty-one states and several industry groups have sued to prevent the rule from moving forward. The EPA wrote and finalized its “Waters of the United States” rule without consulting with some of the people who care about clean water the most: farmers, ranchers, small business owners.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: Let states do the job Obama won’t: sanction Iran, August 31: “President Obama’s executive agreement with Iran is enormously controversial for good reason.

Negotiated in coordination with Russia, China, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, the deal welcomes Iran as a participant in the world community conditioned only on marginal changes to its nuclear program. It effectively allows Iran to maintain technology that would lead to a nuclear weapon, as well as continue its human-rights abuses, sponsoring of terrorism, imprisoning of American hostages, and threats to American allies, including Israel.”

HUMAN EVENTS: The Obama Administration’s war on fossil fuels, September 14: “President Obama and his administration are embroiled in an all-out war on fossil fuels. Under the guise of saving the planet from global warming, the administration has issued rampant regulations trying to further reduce CO2 emissions under the so-called Clean Power Plan. Not only have these regulations been shown as ineffective at actually impacting global temperatures or sea levels, it turns out that the rules will have serious economic impacts on all Americans, especially low-income and minority families.”

USA TODAY: Jim Inhofe: Obama’s ozone overreach, October 5: “On Thursday, the Obama administration finalized a new national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for ozone as part of the president’s legacy of addressing the environment through regulatory overreach. Not only does the new ozone standard impose very real, draconian economic costs on states across the country, but it is veiled in the false promise of environmental benefits.”

LAWTON CONSTITUTION: Six year highway bill may pass by thanksgiving, October 28: “As you’ve heard me say before, my top priority as Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee has been and continues to be passing a long-term highway reauthorization bill. Since the expiration of SAFETEA-LU in 2009, Congress has resorted to passing short-term extension after short term extension just to keep the highway program in operation.”

TULSA WORLD: U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe: Uphill battle: Fighting for veterans’ health care, October 30: “Hillary Clinton’s recent remarks on MSNBC that problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs are not as “widespread” as many believe, shows a concerning disconnect from reality. I would argue that Oklahoma’s veterans, and the 57,000 other veterans across the nation who waited more than three months last year for access to their VA health care, would attest to a very different experience than what Clinton portrayed.”

TULSA WORLD: TULSA MAGAZINE: Global warming is not settled, October 30: “For the past two decades, I have been on the forefront of Congress soundly rejecting attempts by White House administrations to enact cap-and-trade legislation in the name of global warming.”

MUNICIPAL WATER LEADER: Water and Power Report: Your sewers and streets could be Waters of the United States, November 2: “Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published a new definition of waters of the United States that determines

the extent of federal control over land and water (the WOTUS rule). I have been clear that I believe that this rule unlawfully encroaches on the rights of states, municipalities, farmers, and other private citizens.”

THE JOURNAL RECORD: Inhofe: Time to lift the export ban, November 6: “In 1973, when gasoline prices averaged less than 40 cents per gallon, turmoil in the Middle East yielded an oil embargo against the United States. Shortages of gasoline and long lines at filling stations became the norm – a memory deeply set in our history. Washington responded by putting in place a ban on the export of our oil.”

THE OKLAHOMAN: Sen. Jim Inhofe: No choice but to vote against budget, November 6: “Soon after President Obama proposed his fiscal year 2016 budget to fund our nation’s defense, then-Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey testified before Congress stating the budget places our military at the “lower ragged edge of manageable risk in our ability to execute our defense strategy; we have no slack.”

CNN: Beware of empty climate promises, November 30: “Throughout President Barack Obama’s participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties, known as COP21, international partners should be aware that his commitments stand on hollow ground. The President not only lacks support from his own country, but he has no way to follow through on any of his promises.”

TULSA WORLD: Let’s extend the blessings of adoption to more children, December 2: “Across our nation, Americans are commemorating November as a month of thankfulness. It’s a period of time where trials fade into the shadows while we pause to celebrate ways in which our basic needs are being met, whether it’s having food on the table, a season of good health or a home to rest in. As both history and science confirm, the foundation to these blessings is most often derived from the love and support of a committed family.”

TULSA WORLD: Wishing for peace, goodwill from Christmas parade, December 12: “The ‘war on Christmas’ has come to an end in Tulsa this year. For nearly 90 years, residents in Tulsa have commemorated the Christmas season with one large parade downtown, but in 2011, local leaders decided to jump on an unfortunate national trend of removing the word “Christmas” from the event. After 40 years of riding a horse in the parade, I joined many others and said that if Christ wasn’t welcome, then I also would no longer be participating in the event. This is because Christmas isn’t just a holiday that can be sugar-coated for the sake of political appeasement.”

THE OKLAHOMAN: Jim Inhofe: A welcome new blueprint for Oklahoma highways: December 23: “Oklahoma’s robust surface transportation infrastructure has served as an economic backbone for our five military installations, local businesses, farmers and energy producers looking to create jobs and efficiently move their goods across the country. This is why when I came to Congress in 1987, I pursued committee assignments where I could impact transportation policy. As a conservative, I also was driven by the conviction of the Constitution that instructs Congress in Article 1, Section 8 to defend our nation and provide for our roads and bridges.”

TULSA WORLD: Inhofe, Lankford, Lucas, Cole, Mullin, Russell: Lifting ban on crude oil exports starts new chapter for Oklahoma, December 27: “Revenue in Oklahoma is down by 12 percent. We face a \$900.8 million shortfall going into 2016. Our state Secretary of Finance has said we are facing the biggest fiscal challenge since the 2008 recession, and our state education agencies have been told to prepare for large, across-the-board budget cuts midway through the school year substantially due to unreasonably restricting our own access to the international market. On top of all of this, a report from Oklahoma State University shows our state could lose more than 20,000 jobs through 2016 as a result of our unstable energy market.”

ONLINE MEDIA IN 2015

e-newsletter:

Mailings: 19

Readers:

youtube.com/jiminhofepressoffice

Videos Uploaded: 122

Views: 42,383



Inhofe, Lankford Speak on Senate Floor in Recognition of Master Sgt. Joshua Wheeler

Senator Jim Inhofe
 5,811 views
 Add to Share More

twitter.com/jiminhofe

Followers gained: 2,348 bringing the total to 23,361
 Unique Impressions: 1,184,000



Senators - join me in voting YES on Whitehouse's amdmnt saying climate change is a hoax, bc it is. I'll address my vote in floor speech soon

RETWEETS 147 LIKES 44



twitter.com/inhofepress

Followers gained: 1,305 bringing the total to 11,460
 Unique Impressions: 2,015,600



Today is Armed Forces Day. Thank you to all who answered the call.



RETWEETS 50 LIKES 48



instagram.com/inhofepress

Total Followers by 2016: 418
 Posts: 150



facebook.com/jiminhofe

Posts: 335

New Followers: 5,236

Reach: 16,003,407

Senator Jim Inhofe
 Published by Jim Inhofe (?) · April 19, 2015 ·

Today we remember the 168 Oklahomans, including young children, who were killed in an evil act of domestic terrorism in Oklahoma City. We remember the rescue workers, the firefighters and everyone who rushed to the scene to provide aid and extend comfort. What arose from the rubble that day was the #OklahomaStandard – strangers helping strangers, giving sacrificially for the betterment of our great state. Since then, the rest of the nation has seen this rich characteristic on display time and again as Oklahomans pull up their boots in trying times and walk forward with hope that comes from banding together. May we stand in solidarity today to remember the victims, to give thanks to first responders, and to continue to pray for Oklahoma and the families and friends who lost loved ones on April 19, 1995.

499,200 People Reached

29,655 Likes, Comments & Shares

24,150 Likes	6,027 On Post	18,123 On Shares
1,123 Comments	204 On Post	919 On Shares
4,382 Shares	4,265 On Post	117 On Shares

18,863 Post Clicks

2,737 Photo Views	10 Link Clicks	16,116 Other Clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

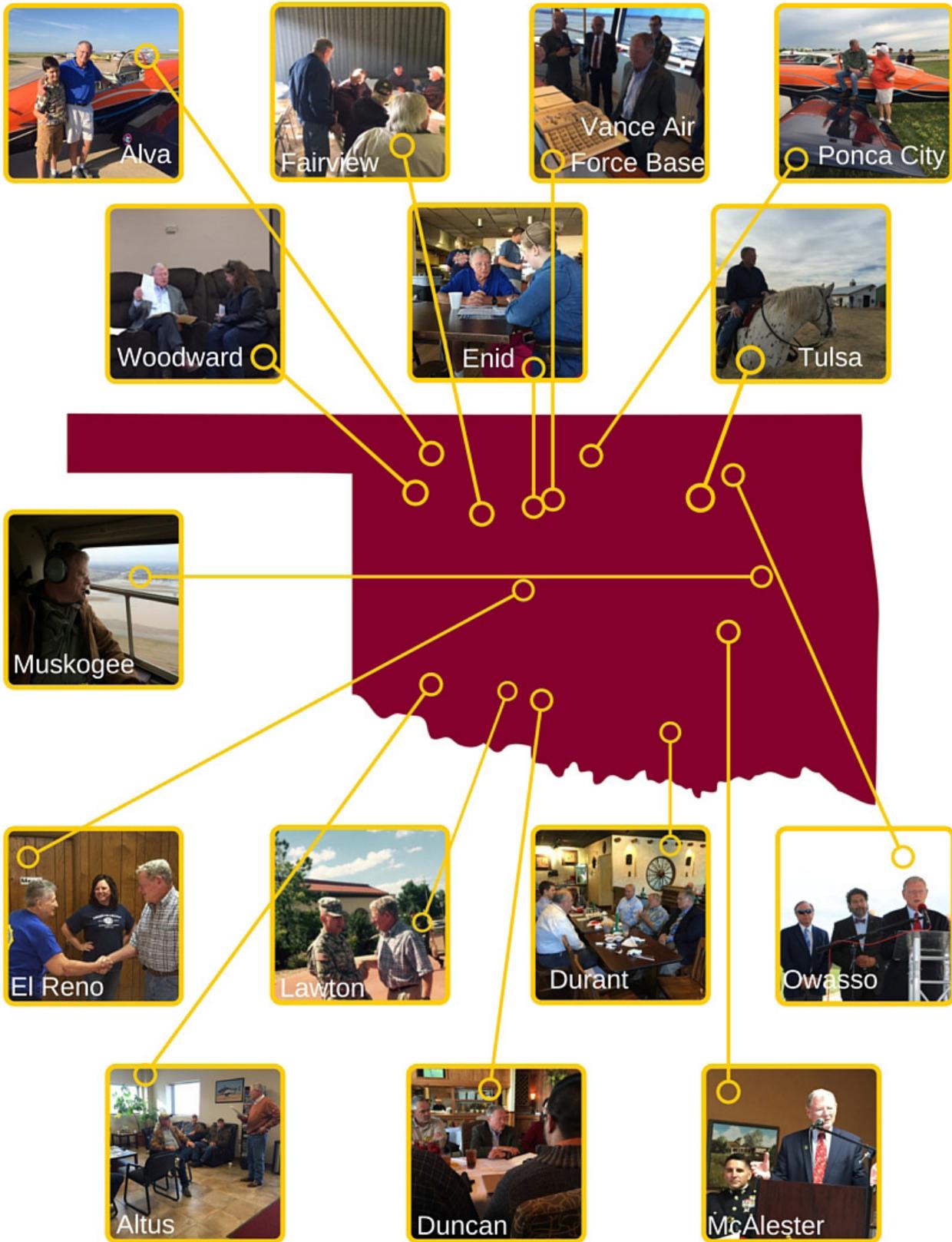
68 Hide Post	31 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	1 Unlike Page

499,200 people reached Boost Post

6k Likes 174 Comments 4.2k Shares

Like Comment Share

IN 2015, SEN. JIM INHOFE MADE 70 VISITS TO TOWNS ACROSS OKLAHOMA



VA DENIES VETERAN CANCER TREATMENT CLOSER TO HOME

Aired on March 11 | KJRH-TV

TULSA - For Nadine Lee, her son is all she has left. Her family fought cancer four times, and lost; her husband and three children died from the disease. Now, the Tulsa mother is doing it again, but this fight isn't just with cancer.



VA medical center in Tulsa, but it doesn't provide cancer treatment. So we contacted Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe and asked him to review the law, and he disagreed with the VA's interpretation.

"That defeats the intent," Senator Inhofe said. "The intent of that of the 40 mile rule was to take care of people so that they don't have to do the very thing that they're having to do."

Since bringing the issue to Senator Inhofe, he is helping lawmakers in the Senate draft a companion bill that would amend the 40 mile rule. Senator Inhofe's office is working with the Problem Solvers to help Veterans get medical care closer to home.

"It's a big blessing, it's a very big blessing," Stephens said.

After we got involved, the VA made an exception in Stephens' case. He now gets care at the Prostate Cancer Institute in Tulsa, just minutes from his house.

The VA still maintains that it is following the law as it was written but a spokeswoman says "We look forward to any changes that will help improve access to healthcare for our veterans."

"You're the ones who found a case, a worthy case to highlight and call to our attention," said Senator Inhofe.



"I've lost three children, this is my last child and I don't plan on losing him," Lee said.

Her son James Stevens, a Vietnam War veteran, gets his medical care through the VA in Tulsa. However, to treat Stevens prostate cancer, the VA told Lee he would have to go to the VA medical center in Oklahoma City. Under the Veteran Choice Act, if a veteran lives more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility, he or she will get care at a non-VA facility closer to home.

When Lee came to the 2 Works for You Problem Solvers in December for help, we went to the VA to ask why Lee wasn't getting care in Tulsa. A spokeswoman said the law says the veteran must live more than 40 miles away from any VA facility, even if the closest facility doesn't offer the care the veteran needs.

Therefore Stevens doesn't qualify because there is a

VETERAN DENIED BY ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO BUILD DOCK NEAR HOUSE

Aired on August 15 | KJRH-TV



Veteran Jim Claunch and his wife, Marilyn, fulfilled one of their lifelong dreams by purchasing a house at Lake Eufaula. “We wanted, but we never really expected, to land a place this perfect,” said veteran Jim Claunch.

They bought the lake front property six years ago, and even had plans to build a dock. Their dock plans were ready to go just a couple of years ago, but the Army Corps of Engineers, in charge of the lake, changed its guidelines for building docks.

“We submitted our paperwork to the Corps and we were denied,” said Jim Claunch.

Here’s the issue, the Army Corps of Engineers says you have to build a dock on the center of your property. The problem is, there’s already a dock there that the Claunch’s don’t own. So they came up with another solution. There’s plenty of room about 180 feet away, still the Army Corp of Engineers won’t allow the Claunch’s to build there either.

It all has to do with how many feet the shoreline is from the center of the home. The closest spot available to build a dock is too many feet away. The changes all came in 2013, four years after the Claunch’s bought their home. The Claunch’s aren’t the only ones who are frustrated. State Senate Bill Brown told 2 Works for You that dozens of residents are experiencing the same problem.

For Jim Claunch, the issue is more than an inconvenience. The disabled veteran has a prosthetic leg. He has to use a crate to get on, and off, the boat without a dock.

“The best I can do is step up with my knee, go up with my artificial leg, step and then come up on it,” said Claunch.

Now, the situation has prompted Senator Inhofe to write a letter--demanding action.

Jim Claunch just hopes something changes-- so he can retire— and enjoy what he’s worked his entire life for: the lake property.

Sen. Jim Inhofe’s Oklahoma field offices help to fulfill the important role of assisting constituents with casework when they are having trouble with a federal agency. The following are 3,379 completed and successful cases of 2015:

- 1492 - Veterans, Military
- 37 - Social Security
- 152 - Immigration, FCC, FTC, Energy, State Department
- 611 - Transportation, Labor, Treasury, Grants
- 906 - Tours and Academy Nominations
- 181 - Medicare, Healthcare, DHS, Education, Housing

At the time of the report, Inhofe’s office is working on 1573 cases for constituents:

- 629 - Veterans, Military
- 197 - Social Security
- 24 - Immigration, FCC, FTC, Energy, State Department
- 368 - Transportation, Labor, Treasury, Grants
- 196 - Tours, Academy Nominations
- 159 - Medicare, Healthcare, DHS, Education, Housing