

UNITED STATES SENATOR  
**JIM INHOFE**



Annual  
Accomplishments  
Report



2016





# UNITED STATES SENATOR JIM INHOFE

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# 2016 Annual Accomplishments Report

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**From the Desk of U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe**

**Dear Friends,**

In 2016, America let Washington know that they were tired of the eight years of executive overreach, burdensome regulations and depleted military brought to them by the Obama administration.

As chairman of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, not only did I fight the Obama administration's job killing regulations like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s so-called Clean Power Plan and Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rules, but I fought hard to enact ambitious and meaningful legislation.

Under my chairmanship, Congress passed the bipartisan *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*, the first environmental legislation passed in two decades, reforming how the EPA regulates toxic chemicals. My committee also passed the *Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WINN)*, which address the needs of our nations ports, dams, harbors and other critical water infrastructure. Both of these pieces of legislation were victories for Oklahoma and our nation as a whole. You can read more about all we accomplished at the EPW Committee on page 38.

I also fought hard in the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) to restore funding to our hollow military forces. For the 55<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Congress sent a military authorization bill to the President for his signature. The FY17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) began a turnaround for our national security and our military, halting eight years of personnel cuts and a dramatic decline in readiness. It also included key provisions important to Oklahoma.

I look forward to working with President Trump to undo costly and unnecessary regulations, restore the EPA to its congressionally designated authority, restore funding for our military and of course repeal and replace Obamacare.

This report details the highlights of all that we accomplished in 2016 on behalf of Oklahoma. I hope you will find it helpful and informative. With steadfast devotion to Oklahoma,



*Jim Inhofe*



# 2016 Awards and Recognitions

- ▶ National Rural Lenders Association, “Congressional Service Award”
- ▶ The Oklahoma Disabled American Veterans, “Congressional Service Award”
- ▶ American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, “Appreciation Award”
- ▶ International Foodservice Distributors Association, “Thomas Jefferson Award”
- ▶ U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “The Spirit of Enterprise Award”
- ▶ Family Research Council, “True Blue Lawmakers Who Have Consistently Voted Pro-Life and Pro-Family Award”
- ▶ Oklahoma Transit Association, “Keith Leftwich Connection Award”
- ▶ Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), “Taxpayer Super Hero Award”
- ▶ South West Transit Association, “2016 Legislator of the Year”
- ▶ National League of Cities, “President’s Award”
- ▶ American Conservative Union, “Award for Conservative Excellence”
- ▶ Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, “Hartranft Award”
- ▶ NewView Oklahoma, “Appreciation Award”
- ▶ National Retail Federation, “2016 Hero of Main Street Award”

## 2016 Committee Assignments

- ▶ Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee Chairman
- ▶ Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Senior Member

## ADOPTION



Sen. Inhofe strongly supports adoption and is committed to advocating for orphans and those seeking to adopt. In 2016, as he has for many years, Inhofe served on Congress's bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption, which assists families that have opened their hearts and homes to adoption and the foster care system.

On July 7, Sen. Inhofe joined a letter to DHS Secretary Johnson expressing concern about proposed increases to certain immigration and naturalization fees affecting intercountry adoptions. The adoption process is already an expensive undertaking that deters many from pursuing it. Sen. Inhofe has worked to make adoption as painless a process as possible. The proposed fee increases will only make things more difficult for every child to find their forever home.

In September, Inhofe welcomed Johnny and Heather Gibson of Guthrie, Okla., as they were recognized as “Angels in Adoption” by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). The Gibsons live at Peppers Ranch in Guthrie where they are part of a Christ-centered organization that provides community support and assistance to families seeking to foster or adopt five or more children from Oklahoma’s Department of Human Services (DHS) foster system. To date, they have adopted eight children from foster care, including a sibling set of three and another sibling set of four. Johnny works full time as a firefighter for the City of Edmond and Heather works for a local insurance agency.



*Inhofe met with Johnny and Heather Gibson in his Washington office, congratulating them for receiving an Angels of Adoption Award.*

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

### **Inhofe also cosponsored the following bills that promote adoption:**

- ◆ 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 child service providers that decline to provide a service that goes against that person or entity’s closely held religious beliefs. If states are found in violation of this act, funding would be withheld.
- ◆ S. 835, the *Tribal Adoption Parity Act*, would allow families that adopt through a tribal government 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 refundable, ensuring that lower income families who choose to adopt would be provided with necessary tax relief to help cover the high cost of an adoption proceeding.



# AGRICULTURE

## GMO Labeling

Sen. Inhofe supported efforts to establish a uniform national bioengineered food disclosure standard. In recent years, a number of states had created individual food labeling mandates and compliance standards, wreaking havoc on Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers engaged in interstate commerce. The legislation (S. 764) will ensure that Oklahoma's agricultural producers have a clear and straightforward standard for consumers to be informed by facts free from the bias of activist organizations. **S. 764 was enacted into law on July 29, 2016, and became Public Law 114-216.**



## Industry Support:

*“Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers rely on genetically-modified crops to produce high-quality and affordable food for the world,” said Tom Buchanan, president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. “While no scientific evidence exists to warrant a mandatory GMO label, state-by-state labeling laws only confuse consumers and increase food prices. As Oklahoma’s largest general farm organization, we support the Senate’s bipartisan legislation because it will create a uniform standard and prevent a patchwork of state laws. We appreciate Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford’s vote today and his continual support of Oklahoma agriculture.”*

*“The Oklahoma Pork Council appreciates Sen. Inhofe’s support of the Roberts/Stabenow compromise on GMO labeling,” said Roy Lee Lindsey, executive director of the Oklahoma Pork Council. “This compromise helps avoid the uncertainty and inconsistency that a patchwork of state laws would create. A system where the same product required one label in a specific state and a different label in a second state is simply not a manageable system. The compromise in the Roberts/Stabenow bill eliminates the possibility of 50 different state standards and allows food producers to use a common label regardless of where the product will be sold.”*

*“Oklahoma cattle ranchers appreciate Sen. Inhofe’s support for the Roberts/Stabenow GMO Bill,” said Charlie Swanson, president of Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association. “It is very important that food labeling laws be consistent across our country so that consumers can be reassured of the choices they have. A patchwork of state laws will only harm consumers by decreasing food choices and driving up food costs. Mindful of the consumer and the farmer, Sen. Inhofe and Sen. Lankford again support common sense policy with their ‘yes’ vote on this important legislation.”*

## Revising USDA’s SNAP Rule

On Aug. 2, Inhofe joined 46 senators in sending a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expressing concerns with their new rule impacting the eligibility requirements for retailers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The rule would change food stocking requirements for stores accepting SNAP benefits. Complying with the new rule would be too costly and burdensome for small neighborhood stores, drugstores and convenience stores in many rural areas to meet, meaning they could no longer accept SNAP benefits. As these locations often serve as the only close location where SNAP recipients can redeem their benefits in rural areas, this rule would effectively reduce access to healthy food options for millions of families across Oklahoma and the nation.

On Dec. 9, USDA released its finalized rule. Because of Inhofe’s advocacy, the final rule did not include the most onerous aspects of their changes. Inhofe will continue working to address this issue with the Trump administration.



## **Inhofe: Protecting Oklahoma's Farmers and Ranchers from Federal Overregulation**

*By: U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe  
Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016*

In a major win for the agriculture community, the federal courts recently struck an Obama administration rule that would have made buying fertilizer even harder than it already is. The rule, written by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), was a unilateral reinterpretation of existing rules and would have applied strict federal regulations for fertilizer storage to all agriculture retailers – and they did this without any direction from Congress. Because the courts ruled correctly on this issue, the rules did not go into effect on Oct. 1 as scheduled.

When I first heard about this regulation from Oklahoma's agriculture community, it became clear that the many local agriculture retail locations across the state would have stopped storing fertilizer for sale to farmers. With fewer locations nationwide, the regulation would have put more trucks hauling fertilizer on the road and increased the cost and time it takes for farmers to get the fertilizer they need.

As the global leader in providing safe and affordable food, Oklahoma farmers and agriculture retailers do not need more costly and confusing regulations from the federal government – especially for a product like fertilizer that is well regulated at the state level. OSHA's new bureaucratic requirements would have added tens of thousands of dollars in costs to individual facilities.

In the court's ruling, it stated that in order for OSHA to make this kind of change, they must adhere to the notice-and-comment procedures established by Congress. This would allow the agency to hear from people like you about how this rule would negatively affect them before it goes into effect.

I applaud the Court's decision. Unlike OSHA, when I heard from many of you about this burdensome rule, I responded by securing language in OSHA's funding bill that would have prohibited the agency from enforcing the new rule had it gone into effect. Between the language I authored and the court's decision, OSHA is now back at square one with respect to this regulation.

The Obama administration has been aggressive in its regulatory assault against American industry. Whether it's the Waters of the United States rule, the Clean Power Plan, or this rule affecting agriculture retailers, the Obama administration is attempting to impose more federal control over every part of the economy. In fact, even the New York Times is saying that President Obama's major legacy will be one of heavy regulation. Fortunately, the courts are beginning to bristle at his expansion of executive power. They struck the OSHA rule and are blocking implementation of the WOTUS and Clean Power Plan rules until their litigation is complete.

But these rules could go back into effect if the balance of the courts is not restored. That's what makes this election in November so important. Without the courts ruling against this expansion of executive power, the regulatory legacy of the president will last for a generation.

## **Preventing Overregulation of Farmers and Ranchers by OSHA**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a unilateral reinterpretation of existing rules on July 22, 2015 that would have applied strict federal regulations for fertilizer storage to all agriculture retailers without any direction from Congress. OSHA's new bureaucratic requirements would have added tens of thousands of dollars in costs to individual facilities. In response to this, Inhofe included language in the Labor Appropriations bill that prohibited the rule from being enforced. This bill was reported out of the Senate Committee on Appropriations on June 9. On Sept. 23, the federal courts struck the rule, preventing it from moving forward at all.

## **Watershed Rehabilitation**

Inhofe supports efforts to ensure federal funding is available to rural communities across the nation and Oklahoma to support USDA's Small Watershed Program, which is responsible for maintaining over 11,000 flood control structures nationwide. Competitively awarded federal funding is matched with funding from state and local project sponsors to ensure aging dams continue to provide flood protection to impacted communities. At Inhofe's request, the Agriculture Appropriations bill included \$12 million for this program. This year, the Latimer County Conservation District received federal funds to rehabilitate Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 1 of the Boiling Springs Creek Watershed so that it meets current safety criteria and standards to protect 20 homes and three county roads. The project is expected to be completed by 2020.

# ARMED SERVICES

## National Defense Authorization Act FY 2017

On Dec. 8, Congress stood once again in strong bipartisan support of our nation's more than 2.1 million men and women in uniform by passing the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) for the 55<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Our service members make heroic and honorable sacrifices every day in defense of the nation and our interests around the world. They continue to do so despite shrinking resources due to defense budget cuts under the Obama administration and increased global threats, including the rise of one of the most well-funded, brutal terrorist organizations in history, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).



*Inhofe joined troops for lunch at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in July.*

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 NDAA ensures that America continues to keep its promise to care and provide for our service members and their families with necessary benefits as well as proper training and adequate resources to carry out assigned missions effectively and safely. The bill authorized funding of our military at \$619 billion, \$9 billion over the President's budget request and includes \$5.8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations as well as a \$3.2 billion to increase military readiness. The bill also includes a 2.1 percent increase in service member pay (the largest in six years) and improves military health care for service members, their families and our veterans.

This legislation also provides critical funding to improve the combat readiness of our military and support the service members and families who make countless sacrifices to serve our country. This bill also takes significant steps to reform the Department of Defense (DOD), modernize the military health system and reform the defense acquisition system to harness American innovation. Most importantly, this bill includes many provisions advancing the military presence in Oklahoma, to include securing funding for the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) and KC-46A, protecting Impact Aid dollars supporting Oklahoma's education system in military communities, and supporting research dollars that will be accessed by the state's universities.

## Commissaries

For the second year in a row, Inhofe sponsored an amendment with Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) to protect commissaries from privatization, **which was successfully adopted by a vote of 70–28 and strikes language that was originally in the Senate NDAA that would have privatized five major military commissaries.** The amendment garnered the support of 24 co-sponsors and over 40 organizations. Inhofe is also concerned about language included that changes the funding of the commissary system and institutes a variable pricing program, which could impact the purchasing power of our military families.



*Inhofe visited Altus AFB Commissary in May to hear from military families who depend on the commissaries benefit.*

## **Civilian Hiring at our Depots and Arsenals**

Our military, and specifically our depots, are suffering from a shortage of skilled civilian workers. This workforce is the backbone of the sustainment and combat capability of our entire military—every service and every weapon system. This workforce maintains aging equipment, adopts new technologies and is consistently recognized by industry as the benchmark of success. Because of their abilities, the workload demands continue to grow along with the need for higher levels of technological skill sets. Our ability to recruit and hire this workforce is being impacted by an ineffective and inefficient civilian hiring system. To help all depots, shipyards, arsenals and plants, to include Tinker Air Force Base and the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Inhofe authored language in the NDAA that allows for direct hiring of civilians for DOD and hiring flexibility for term and temporary civilian employees. **This language was included as Secs. 1106 & 1110 of P.L. 114-328.**

## **Base Realignment and Closure Prohibition (BRAC).**

Inhofe supported language that makes clear that nothing in the FY17 NDAA shall be construed to authorize a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round next year, which was included in the president’s proposed budget. Inhofe believes that the United States has reduced force capability to an unacceptable level, and it should not be brought down any further in the near term. The reported excess infrastructure of our military is based on a force structure too small to provide for the security of our nation at a time where global threats are the greatest in decades. Inhofe also recognizes an announcement of a BRAC round would negatively impact every military community due to uncertainty about their future and cost the taxpayer billions in this tough economic climate for savings that will not be realized for another decade. **This prohibition was included as Sec. 2702 of P.L. 114-328.**

## **E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).**

Inhofe addressed the need to continue the full funding of the Air Force’s block 40/45 upgrades to the technologically aging E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). AWACS have been in constant demand, supporting overseas contingency operations as well as supporting homeland defense for over the past two decades. The AWACS fleet, based entirely at Tinker Air Force Base, entered the service in the late 1970s in order to remain ahead of the threat. Inhofe also ensured the restriction on retiring AWACS, Compass Call and J-STARs platforms was maintained through 2017. **This provision was included as Section 144 of P.L. 114-92, the NDAA for FY 2016.**

## **Paladin Integrated Management (PIM).**

The PIM program is critical to the U.S. Army. Assembled in Elgin and operated on Fort Sill, PIM is the primary indirect fire weapons platform in the U.S. Army’s Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) and is necessary to the modernization of the Paladin Self-Propelled Howitzer and the U.S. artillery force. The PIM program upgrades both the M109A6 Paladin Howitzer and its companion ammunition resupply vehicle, the M992 Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicle (FAASV). PIM incorporates many new survivability enhancements to greatly increase the force protection levels of the crewmembers. It significantly improves force protection and survivability and reduces a logistics burden for the Armored Brigade Combat team field artillery soldiers. Inhofe included language in FY17 NDAA that voiced strong support for the PIM upgrade to the M109A6 Paladin and successfully included **Sec. 2943 in P.L. 114-328** that authorizes full funding at \$469.3 million to acquire 36 new PIMs.

## **KC-46A Procurement and Basing.**

Our nation’s air refueling fleet is crucial to the future of our national security. The KC-46A will replace our aging KC-135 tanker aircraft. The KC-46 helps ensure the viability of our Air Force as a global force. Inhofe supported legislation that fully funds the KC-46 program for \$121.7 million for FY17. Altus Air Force Base will be one of seven bases to receive the KC-46 starting March 2017 and will receive \$11.6 million for military construction to

complete the KC-46 Simulator Facility Phase 2. Tinker Air Force Base, selected to provide all depot maintenance for the KC-46, will receive \$17 million in military construction for a KC-46A Depot System Fuel Laboratory. Inhofe also ensured the KC-46 was fully funded in the bill to ensure no impacts on the delivery of future aircraft. **This provision was included in Sec. 4101 of P.L. 114-328.**

## **MC-12W.**

Inhofe worked to ensure full funding for the beddown, training and operations of the MC-12W aircraft flown by the 137<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard, at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base. The MC-12W is a medium-to-low altitude, twin-engine turboprop aircraft that provides intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) support directly to military forces on the ground. The 137<sup>th</sup> will help fill the growing worldwide requirement for ISR.



*Inhofe celebrates the U.S. Army's birthday at a cake cutting in the U.S. Capitol.*

## **B-21 Long Range Strike Bomber**

The Department of Defense (DOD) continues to pursue the acquisition of the B-21 for operating in anti-access/area denial environments. It is a bomber that will be capable of carrying both precision-guided conventional and nuclear weapons. Once fielded, the B-21 could be sustained at Tinker Air Force Base, as with the B-1 and B-52. Inhofe supported fully funding the B-21 program at \$1.36 billion.

## **F-16 Mission Training Centers**

Inhofe included language in the Senate NDAA report that encouraged the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Air National Guard to field additional F-16 block 40/50 Mission Training Centers (MTC) that remotely connect to virtual networks to perform enterprise-wide training and mission rehearsal across diverse geographical locations. Additional MTC locations would provide U.S. Air National Guard aircrews the necessary continuity of training between live and virtual scenarios required to attain and sustain full combat mission readiness while reducing operations tempo, flying hour and travel costs. President Obama's budget request only contained \$15.2 million for F-16 aircraft support equipment and facilities. Inhofe supported adding \$24.8 million for the procurement of additional F-16 MTCs for the U.S. Air National Guard. **This additional funding was included on page 820 of P.L. 114-328.** One possible basing location for the MTC is at the Tulsa Air National Guard Base at Tulsa Airport. The City of Tulsa approved \$9.4 million for a simulator building that would house the MTC.

## Other Military Construction Projects for Oklahoma.

Tinker Air Force Base will also receive \$26 million for an AWACS Mission and Flight Simulator Training Facility. Ardmore will receive \$22 million for a new National Guard Readiness Center.

## Depot Maintenance

In response to a request by the U.S. Air Force to address funding shortages for readiness, Inhofe supported increased funding for all depots. This funding would increase readiness by allowing for maintenance of nine separate U.S. Air Force aircraft including the KC-135, E-4B National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC), E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), B-52 and B-2 aircraft that are all sustained at Tinker Air Force Base.

## Conformal phased array antennas and digital polarimetry radar development

Substantive improvements in antenna and radar technology is providing enhanced capabilities to aircraft and unmanned aerial systems. At the request of Sen. Inhofe, the NDAA includes provisions encouraging the research and development of super-adaptable conformal phased array antennas as well as research opportunities to create an all-digital polarimetric phased array radar for future use in small object sensing and tracking. The University of Oklahoma, a national leader in research and development of radars and antenna technologies, is perfectly situated to work with the U.S. Navy in development of new antennas and radars for the DOD. **This provision was included on page 66 of the Senate Report to accompany P.L. 114-328.**

## Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

The bill extends the prohibitions on transferring Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo) detainees to the United States, as well as using funds to close Gitmo and restrictions on transferring Gitmo detainees to certain foreign countries. Inhofe also supported language that prohibits any further transfers or releases from Gitmo until the secretary of defense provides an unclassified report on the remaining detainees including their previous terrorist activities and any involvement in attacks against the United States or our allies. By law, the administration is required to give Congress 30-days advance notice of the transfer or release of terrorists held at Guantanamo, but this information is kept classified. With 80 terrorists remaining in Gitmo, most of which have been labeled ‘too dangerous to release,’ the additional requirement will give Americans a greater voice in how an administration is handling enemy combats while our country remains in a global war against terrorism. This reflects the objective of Inhofe’s *Detainee Transfer Transparency Act* on April 13. **These prohibitions were included as sections 1032, 1033, 1034 and 1035 of P.L. 114-328.**

## Cyber Security

Inhofe supported the **inclusion of Sec. 1103 in the bill** that increases focus, support and funding of DOD cyber efforts including authorities for offensive and defense operations, vulnerability assessments, development of new technologies, and growth and retention of our cyber force. Improving our cyber capabilities and understanding our vulnerabilities will enable the DOD to protect our nation against a growing cyber threat. The University of Tulsa continues to be a center of excellence in cyber security and research and will play a critical role in understanding and countering this threat to every American and our nation.

## Directed Energy Weapons

On April 12, Inhofe introduced S.2778, the *Directed Energy Weapon Systems Acquisition Act of 2016*, with Sen. Heinrich (D-NM.). The bill would accelerate the development and transition of directed energy technology capabilities for our nation’s military. The bill authorizes the secretary of defense to use rapid acquisition authorities for directed energy weapon systems development and fielding. U.S. superiority on the land, sea, air and space have been eroded by procurement holidays and inadequate funding. This has enabled Russia and China to catch up and, in some areas, surpass the United States in combat capabilities. Directed energy is one area the United States still

has the advantage and could fundamentally change the battlefield. This legislation will help to encourage strategic planning, robust funding, and engagement by the Pentagon with industry and universities on directed energy weapons, and provide authority to rapidly acquire new directed energy weapon systems. **This language was included as Section 219 of P.L. 114-328.**

## **Integration of nanoscale techniques for improved battery technology**

For the past five years, the University of Tulsa has been using nanotechnology to advance battery technology. At the request of Inhofe, the Senate NDAA report included a provision supporting the efforts of the DOD and the U.S. military's efforts to improve battery technology. The continued research and development of nanoscale techniques to improve battery technology as it relates to improving military capabilities on the battlefield is a distinct enabler and has numerous civilian possibilities. **This provision was included on page 70 of P.L. 114-255.**

## **National Defense Stockpile**

Inhofe supported the inclusion of Sec. 1411 of the FY17 NDAA directing the secretary of defense to report to congressional committees in February 2017 an assessment that designates which rare earth elements (REE) are critical to national security, analyzes the effect of unavailability of REE designated as critical and defines reliable and secure sources for REE. This report will support National Defense Stockpile locations across the United States, including one in Oklahoma. **This provision was included in section 1411 of P.L. 114-348.**

*“As a major source of recyclable strategic materials, the United States government can be a key partner in Umicore’s efforts to close the materials loop and ensure resource availability. These legislative reforms should enable the National Defense Stockpile to partner with industry to increase the country’s supply of critical materials.”*

**– Jeff Koch, Senior commercial manager for recycling & refining at Umicore Optical Materials in Quapaw, Oklahoma**

## **Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA)**

Joseph Kony and his Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) continue to spread terror and lawlessness in Eastern Congo and Central Africa. In 2015, LRA forces were active in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo), South Sudan and in Sudanese-controlled areas of South Darfur and the disputed Kafia Kingi enclave. The LRA abducted 612 people in 203 attacks in 2015, a slight reduction compared to 2014, though the number of abductions was higher than in both 2012 and 2013. The instability created by the LRA enables the spread of other extremist and terrorist organizations that are expanding operations throughout the African continent. Inhofe supported the inclusion of \$17 million in continued funding for the counter LRA mission and bringing to an end Joseph Kony’s reign of terror in Eastern Congo and Central Africa is critical to restoring stability in the region.

*“Joseph Kony’s violence against thousands of families in central and East Africa has gone on for far too long and must be stopped. We are closer than ever before to making that a reality, thanks to the courageous efforts of central African communities and the unwavering commitment of policymakers like Sen. Inhofe. We commend the Senator and his colleagues in Congress for continuing to support efforts to protect families in central Africa from violence and end Kony’s crimes once and for all.”*

**– Lisa Dougan, President & CEO of Invisible Children**

## Missile Defense

Missile defense is a vital strategic tool that is necessary to defend the United States and its allies. An avid supporter of missile defense since its true beginnings under President Ronald Reagan, Inhofe continued to push and support language to improve missile defense for the United States and Israel. Inhofe supported increasing funding for the missile defense agency by \$115 million, which will provide for necessary modernization of the U.S. ground based missile defense system needed to enhance protection of the homeland against the growing long-range ballistic missile threats from Iran, North Korea and other countries. Israel, our long-time ally, faces imminent threat from Iran. Inhofe supported increasing funding for U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs including funding for continued development of Arrow, Arrow 3 and David's Sling, as well as procurement of Tamir interceptors for Iron Dome. **This provision was included as section 4201 of P.L. 114-328.**

## One year extension of payment of Special Survivor Indemnity Allowances under the Survivor Benefit Plan

Inhofe worked to include language that amends section 1450 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code to permanently extend the authority to pay the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) at the monthly rate currently payable for FY17 when it was set to expire. The final bill extends payment for one year. SSIA is a program for surviving spouses who are the beneficiary of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity and their SBP annuity is partially or fully offset by the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). SSIA also applies to the surviving spouses of members who died on active duty whose SBP annuity is partially or fully offset by their DIC. **This language was included as Section 646 of P.L. 114-328.**

## Boko Haram

Inhofe cosponsored S. 1632, requiring the Department of State and the Department of Defense to develop jointly and submit to Congress a five-year strategy to help Nigeria and other relevant countries counter and defeat Boko Haram. **This bill passed the Senate on September 22, 2015 and was enacted into law on December 14 as P.L. 114-266.**

## Armed Services Hearings

During a SASC hearing on March 1, Inhofe discussed with EUCOM Commander Gen. Phillip Breedlove the foreign policy advancements being made due to Congress ending the 40-year ban on U.S. oil exports. During Inhofe's questioning of Gen. Breedlove, Inhofe expressed his agreement with Gen. Breedlove's opening statement that European dependency on Russian oil has served to "bolster" Russia's ability to coerce nations like Ukraine to achieve political gains. He asked Gen. Breedlove if the United States, now being capable of competing in the oil market overseas, is helping to dilute Russia's influence in the region. In December 2015, Congress took action to force the president's hand to end the 40-year ban on oil exports. As exemplified in the committee hearing, this action is becoming a helpful and necessary foreign policy "tool" for the United States to aid our allies and weaken Russia's influence.

During a SASC hearing on April 26, Inhofe questioned Lt. Gen. Christopher C. Bogdan, USAF, Program Executive Officer for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program, about the strategic significance of the F-35 for the United States to retain its military strength and remain competitive with its adversaries. During questioning, Inhofe received promising feedback from Lt. Gen. Bogdan that production and demand of the F-35 is expected to remain strong, driving down cost.

During a SASC Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support hearing on the current state of readiness of U.S. forces On March 16, Inhofe discussed with witnesses about the degradation of our air power and the impact on personnel and maintenance as a result of historically steep budget cuts under the Obama administration. Inhofe looks forward to working with the Trump administration to increase the size and improve the effectiveness of our military. In response to Inhofe, Gen. David Goldfein, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, testified that the areas of the Air Force that are suffering the most from budget cuts are the service members and our conventional air power. He stated, “For the Air Force, the demand signal has primarily been in space, cyber, ISR and the nuclear enterprise. So you will see in our budget that we invest in those. Trying to balance against those, there are only two places you can go to balance and that’s people and conventional.”

During a SASC hearing with the chiefs of staff of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force on Sept. 15, Inhofe requested an assessment from the witnesses on the current state of our military. Gen. Mark Milley, chief of staff of the Army, warned that our nation’s military would experience “significant risk” if faced with an additional contingency to our current operations against ISIL. While Gen. Milley said the U.S. Army’s level of readiness and size can deal with the current day-to-day fight against terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan, the risk to our national security and to the lives of our military will “significantly increase” if another contingency arises, noting China, Russia, North Korea or Iran as potential threats. Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations for the U.S. Navy, agreed with Gen. Milley and also noted that the Navy downsized to its current force structure of 308 ships “without consideration of the emerging threat of Russia, without considering the emergent threat of ISIS.”

### **Great American Defense Communities: Lawton**

Lawton community was named one of the top ten “Great American Defense Communities” by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) and the Defense Communities Caucus in 2016. The top 10 “Great American Defense Communities” selected this year are: Lawton, Okla.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Dayton, Ohio; Manhattan, Kansas; Ft Leonard Wood, Mo.; Goldsboro, N.C.; Grand Forks, N.D.; Monterey, Calif.; and Puget Sound, Wash. Inhofe contributed a letter for Lawton’s consideration, writing, “the Great American Defense Communities award acknowledges what Oklahomans already know- that the Lawton community is one of the top ten defense communities in the nation. Every time I visit Lawton and Fort Sill, I see firsthand their strong sense of community and their support for our service members, their families and our veterans. I am proud that they are being recognized for their dedication and hard work.”



*Inhofe meets with troops during a visit to Fort Sill.*

### **Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 becomes law**

On July 15, S. 571, the *Pilot's Bill of Rights 2*, was signed into law. For almost a decade, pilots, aviation enthusiasts and the general aviation community have been working to reform the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) bureaucratic and burdensome third class medical reform process for recreational pilots. The cornerstone of the *Pilot's Bill of Rights 2* are reforms to FAA's third class medical certification process for recreational pilots to address the bureaucratic and burdensome process, which discourages pilots from disclosing and treating medical conditions that could impact their ability to fly.

The reforms contained in the *Pilot's Bill of Rights 2* will increase pilots' knowledge of aeromedical risk while demanding treatment of identified conditions. The reforms expand the existing exemption for light sport pilots to include more qualified, trained pilots as long as they: (1) are being treated for all known medical diagnoses by their private physicians; and (2) complete an online medical education course every two years. New pilots must undergo a comprehensive medical evaluation by the FAA before receiving their medical certificate. The reforms also require individuals with severe cardiac conditions to receive an additional screening from the FAA after major events and require ongoing evaluations by the FAA for individuals with mental health and neurological conditions that may impact their ability to operate an aircraft.

**The Pilot's Bill of Rights was enacted as Section 2307 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016, PL 114-190, and was signed into law on July 15. This provision was enacted following the successful passage of Inhofe's S. 571, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on Dec 15, 2015.**

This provision was strongly supported by the entire general aviation community, including the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), National Air Transportation Association (NATA), National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Allied Pilots Association (APA), NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots (NJASAP), and the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association (SWAPA), among others.



## Industry Support:

- ▶ *“Medical reforms are vital to the future of general aviation, and we are grateful to Sen. Inhofe for his exceptional leadership in making them a reality,” said **Mark Baker, president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.** “He understands how important this is to our community and our industry, and he has doggedly pursued medical reforms, keeping the issue front and center and winning widespread bipartisan support. Sen. Inhofe has been a true friend to general aviation, not only on medical reform but on dozens of other issues affecting this uniquely American industry and the 1.1 million jobs it supports.”*
- ▶ *“Sen. Inhofe has been a true champion of general aviation throughout this entire process,” said **Jack J. Pelton, CEO/chairman of the Experimental Aircraft Association.** “His dedication to success and knowledge of the congressional process made an enormous difference every step of the way, including passage of this language three times by the Senate. As a pilot and EAA member, he well understood the necessity of this legislation to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and expense to the general aviation community while maintaining the high standards of safety.”*
- ▶ *“We commend Sen. Inhofe for his tireless and effective work to ensure passage of third-class medical reform for pilots of small aircraft,” said **Ed Bolen, president and CEO of the National Business Aviation Association.** “There has been no greater champion for this cause in the Senate.”*
- ▶ *“A key element of moving third class medical reform to the President’s desk was Sen. Inhofe’s resolve to keep the issue before the Congress until it was accomplished,” said **Tom Hendricks, president and CEO of the National Air Transportation Association.** “NATA looks forward to working with the Senator in 2017 to enact a multi-year FAA bill that represents consensus work of the House, Senate and aviation stakeholders including provisions to further assist general aviation pilots and aviation businesses.”*

### PILOT’S BILL OF RIGHTS 2 ‘SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT’ GA BILL SEN. JIM INHOFE PUSHES FOR MEDICAL REFORM

By: U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe  
June 14, 2016



Because of the support of the entire general aviation community, the legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent just before Christmas. S.571 was also included in the Senate’s FAA reauthorization bill and the Senate’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which have both passed the Senate.

As you can see, S.571 has received consistent, strong bipartisan support in the Senate, and now it sits at the doorstep of the U.S. House of Representatives. In order to ensure this legislation is signed into law this year, it will take pilots and readers like you calling the House and urging that S.571 move forward as part of the House’s next steps for authorizing the FAA’s activities—whether that is an extension or a full reauthorization.

You and I both know how burdensome today’s third class medical process is, and it’s the product of a system that encourages pilots to hide their medical conditions from the FAA instead of being treated for them.

S. 571 enhances the safety of the skies by entrusting the ongoing decision of a pilot’s fitness to fly with pilots and their private physicians, where an open and complete dialogue can be established. Under the new system pilots will be required to undergo a routine medical examination every four years with their personal physician after an initial review by the FAA when they first receive their license. The legislation requires pilots to be treated for all warranted conditions and to complete a medical education course every two years.

We have already done our part in the Senate. The reforms contained in this bill have been long desired by the General Aviation community, and this wouldn’t have been possible without the tireless help of AOPA members like you. I want to thank Mark Baker, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and his team for their leadership and support from the beginning.

Pilots across the nation have always been instrumental in educating my colleagues in Congress on issues that affect pilots. I urge pilots to once again reach out to their Members in the House of Representatives, remind them how important the Pilot’s Bill of Rights 2 is, and ask them to ask Congressman Bill Shuster, the Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and House leadership to bring the bill up for a vote. Together we can finish this today.—By Sen. Jim Inhofe

- ▶ *“NASAO commends Sen. Inhofe for his tireless work to gain passage of this vital reform,” said **Greg Principato, president and CEO of the National Association of State Aviation Officials.** “This common sense medical reform will help stem the decline of the general aviation pilot population by keeping pilots in the air—without degrading safety. This legislation will not only benefit the pilots, but also the vast network of smaller general aviation airports that they support.”*
- ▶ *“Thanks to Sen. Inhofe’s outstanding efforts on behalf of our nation’s professional pilots, the FAA extension will include the third-class medical reform provisions of the Pilots Bill of Rights 2,” said **Capt. Dan Carey, president of the Allied Pilots Association.** “Time and again, Sen. Inhofe has shown himself to be an effective pilots’ advocate, and for that we are grateful.”*
- ▶ *“By spearheading third class medical reform, Sen. Inhofe has reaffirmed a tireless commitment to defending and enhancing the interests of professional and general aviation pilots,” said **Capt. Coley George, industry affairs committee chair of NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots.** “On behalf of the NJASAP Membership, it is my privilege to recognize and to express our gratitude for his enduring commitment to addressing the concerns of all pilots from hobbyist to professional cockpit crewmember.”*
- ▶ *“The pilots of Southwest Airlines are pleased that changes to the third-class medical were included in the new FAA Reauthorization bill,” said **Jon Weeks, president of the Southwest Airlines Pilots’ Association.** “This encourages growth of the U.S. general aviation community and allows the FAA to focus its resources on maintaining its world-class oversight of the commercial aviation industry. Our thanks go out to Sen. Inhofe’s understanding of the aviation industry and his work to improve the lives of aviators nationwide.”*



*Inhofe spoke with AOPA President Mark Baker at EEA AirVenture Oshkosh.*

## Implementation

On Nov. 2, Inhofe led a bicameral, bipartisan letter signed by 84 Members of Congress to the FAA encouraging the agency to implement new regulations following Congress’ intent of the third class medical reform signed into law. They wrote, “We encourage the FAA to ensure that these regulations follow the intent of the new law, which is to remove bureaucracy, red tape, cost, and delays from the cumbersome process that exists today while maintaining a safe general aviation pilot population. Moreover, this bipartisan compromise also relies on the education of general aviation pilots with respect to aeromedical awareness.”

## Legislation Improving Air Traffic Controller Instruction Becomes Law

Federal policies require that Air Traffic Controller (ATC) Instructors have previous experience as Air Traffic Controllers. Unfortunately, federal law imposes a financial penalty to instructors who want to work full time. This provision makes it difficult for the FAA to recruit and retain the talented instructors needed to train the next generation of controllers who keep our skies safe.

To address this, Inhofe introduced S. 3217 on July 14, 2016. This legislation eliminates the financial penalty, thereby enabling the retention of these key training personnel.

S. 3217 was adopted as an amendment to the *Senate FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016* during its Commerce Committee markup.

**On September 20, the House passed its identical companion legislation, H.R. 5785, which was subsequently taken up and passed by Unanimous Consent in the U.S. Senate on Nov. 29. It was signed into law as P.L. 114-251 on December 8**

*“With Oklahoma being a leading state in the aerospace industry, I know how important it is to ensure that the next generation of air traffic controllers is fully prepared to manage air traffic in the National Airspace System,” Inhofe said. “This legislation removes government red tape that is hampering the private sector’s ability to recruit and retain the highest-quality instructors on a full-time basis. In turn, the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City, and airports across the country, will benefit from a consistent training environment by experience instructors for new and future air traffic*

*Passage of this legislation is an important step toward improving the FAA’s training academy for air traffic controllers,” said Paul Rinaldi, President of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. “Our National Airspace System is currently experiencing an air traffic control staffing crisis, so this legislation could not have come at a better time. NATCA thanks the Oklahoma delegation, particularly Inhofe, for their leadership in advancing this important bill. Experienced, recently retired controllers are vital to the FAA academy in order to train the new hires the system desperately needs.”*

## Reforms to FAA’s ATC hiring process become law

In 2013, FAA announced unilateral revisions to the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) hiring process that required ATC applicants to pass a new non-knowledge based, subjective testing protocol called the Biographical Questionnaire before having any opportunity to demonstrate competency through an impartial, knowledge-based test. In 2014, Inhofe articulated his concerns about this in a letter to the FAA, arguing that it would negatively impact the FAA’s ability to ensure the most qualified applicants were admitted to the FAA Academy to become air traffic controllers.

In 2015, the Senate Transportation Appropriations Bill directed to FAA solicit input from stakeholders impacted by changes to the hiring process and recognize the value of training programs such as the Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) program in building the future workforce of aviation professionals.

FAA did not appropriately respond. **In response to this, Inhofe supported the inclusion of Section 2106 in PL 114-190, the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016.** This language eliminates the Biographical Questionnaire and ensures that FAA will use a knowledge-based testing system to identify qualified applicants. The provision also helps to promote the Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) program, developed in partnership with the FAA and 36 institutions, including the University of Oklahoma and Tulsa Community College.

*“On behalf of University of Oklahoma Outreach and our Department of Aviation, we want to thank Sen. Inhofe for his assistance with the FAA extension bill and new language in favor of the value of FAA Air Traffic-Collegiate Initiative Training (AT-CTI) programs such as our OU program,” said James P. Pappas, Ph.D, vice president for University of Oklahoma Outreach & Dean of the College of Liberal Studies. “Having air traffic controllers who are collegiately trained provides a cadre of highly qualified candidates who possess the knowledge and leadership skills to move into supervisory and management roles in the air traffic system, airport management, and other aviation industry positions. By emphasizing applicants who have completed collegiate education with career specific ATC training, we ensure the highest level of safety for our citizens traveling within the National Airspace System.”*

## **Oklahoma Aviation Accomplishments**

Oklahoma’s aerospace industry is a vital and growing component of the State’s economy. It includes commercial, military and general aviation manufacturing, testing, researching and maintenance activities as well as a vibrant and cutting-edge culture of research and development. The aviation industry is directly responsible for billions of dollars of economic output in the State, and aviation companies employ thousands of Oklahomans.

### **Establishing Commercial Air Service for Stillwater**

Inhofe has regularly heard about the need to establish commercial air service in Stillwater, Oklahoma during his time in the Senate. They lost air service over 30 years ago. In 2013, Inhofe sent a letter to the Department of Transportation, encouraging them to support the establishment of commercial air service in Stillwater. In 2015, Inhofe sent a letter to American Airlines, encouraging them to work with Stillwater to establish service. To assist in the cost of reestablishing commercial air service, the City of Stillwater was able to use substantial local funds to match an FAA grant provided the city through the Small Community Air Service Development Program to renovate the airport’s passenger terminal and market the cost of the new service.



*Inhofe joins state leaders in celebrating commercial air service coming to Stillwater.*

In August, as a result of the collaborative work of the Oklahoma delegation and community leaders, American Airlines offered its first commercial flight from Stillwater to Dallas. The new service will provide two flights per day, seven days a week, to the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport and provides North Central Oklahoma communities with quick access to the major international hub that serves over two hundred destinations around the world.

*“It took a team effort from the entire Stillwater community to help establish commercial air service into Stillwater,” said Inhofe. “Sec. Gary Ridley has been a tireless advocate for this opportunity and it would not have been possible without him. I also want to thank American Airlines for partnering with the Stillwater community. This only stands to benefit all parties as Stillwater is home to Oklahoma State University and is a center point for a vibrant and growing region of Oklahoma.”*

## **Investment in Bristow’s Jones Memorial Airport**

The foundation for long-term, sustainable economic growth begins with strong local infrastructure. General aviation airports serve as hubs of economic development for their communities, providing a gateway for local and rural based businesses to cost-effectively connect with suppliers and customers nationwide.

The City of Bristow relies on its Jones Memorial Airport to attract and retain businesses in the community, but their runway has long been out of compliance with the FAA’s current safety standards and needs to be reconstructed.

Inhofe strongly supported efforts by the City of Bristow and state officials to secure existing federal funding resources that, when matched with state and local funds, would allow the City of Bristow to fund construction of a new runway at Bristow’s Jones Memorial Airport.

To accelerate the reconstruction of this airport, Inhofe included report language in the 2017 Transportation Appropriations bill that instructs FAA to prioritize its grant funding for airports with runways that are no longer in compliance with safety standards. This legislation passed the Senate on May 19. On April 8 Inhofe wrote the Economic Development Agency in support of a grant application by the City of Bristow.

As a result of Inhofe’s advocacy, the City of Bristow was awarded a \$3.4 million grant from the FAA and a \$1 million grant from EDA for the construction of a new runway at Bristow’s Jones Memorial Airport.

*“I applaud the City of Bristow for being awarded these federal grants that will be complemented with state and local funds to address an aging and deficient runway at the Bristow Airport, and I appreciate EDA and FAA for recognizing the benefits that a new runway will have on the city and the surrounding region,” Inhofe said.*

## **University of Oklahoma selected to lead new FAA Center of Excellence**

Oklahoma continues to be nationally recognized for its leadership in aviation. Much of the work advancing the industry occurs at its universities. When the FAA announced its plans to establish a Center of Excellence for Technical Training and Human Performance (COE), Inhofe led a letter in support of the University of Oklahoma’s (OU) application that was signed by the entire Oklahoma delegation on April 15.

On Aug. 12, OU was selected to be a lead university for the new COE. Established as a public-private partnership with top-tier academic research institutions, FAA is expected to invest \$5 million over the next five years in this newly-created COE. OU will collaborate with core team members and eight affiliated universities, including Oklahoma State University and Tulsa Community College, to bring together the academic and scientific research communities to address the immediate and long-range challenges in training the next generation of individuals responsible for managing the national air transportation system such as air traffic controllers, aviation safety inspectors, engineers, pilots and technicians.

*“This newly awarded FAA Center of Excellence is wonderful news for the state of Oklahoma as it recognizes our important contributions to the aviation field and positions OU as a world-class leader in helping the FAA to develop advancements in teaching, part-task training, modeling, simulation, and learning technologies to train the next generation of aviation professionals.”*

— **James P. Pappas, Ph.D**, vice president for University of Oklahoma Outreach & Dean of the College of Liberal Studies.

## **Supporting Oklahoma’s Contract Towers**

Inhofe has been 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 FAA’s most cost-effective programs—would severely 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. In addition, many contract tower airports are located near or adjacent to military bases and manage a substantial number of military-related and national security operations, directly supporting the readiness and training of military units. Inhofe first became involved in defending the contract tower program in May 2013 after FAA threatened to close 149 towers as a result of sequestration. Each year since then, Inhofe has secured full funding for contract towers through the annual appropriations process.

On March 18, Inhofe led a bipartisan letter signed by 26 Senators to the Senate Committee on Appropriations urging the inclusion of language ensuring full and dedicated funding for the Federal Contract Tower program as part of the fiscal year 2017 budget. **Full funding for fiscal year 2017 was included in the Senate-passed Transportation Appropriation Act.**

## **Contract Weather Observers**

At airports across the country, expert meteorological professional observers, known as contract weather observers, record and interpret weather and climate data and supply that information to pilots, airlines, the National Weather Service and local news meteorologists to ensure the safety of the flying public.

FAA has proposed eliminating these professionals at 57 airports across the country, including Will Rogers World Airport and Tulsa International Airport, without fully studying the safety risks and operational effects on airports and airlines that could be a consequence of the change. These observers are necessary to provide accurate and timely weather forecasts, which is of particular importance in Oklahoma where the weather changes quickly and is regularly threatened by severe storms and tornadoes. Inhofe cosponsored an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bill that prevents FAA from cutting weather professionals at the nation’s airports until a thorough impact analysis is completed. **The amendment was signed into law on July 15 as Section 2306 in the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016, PL 114-190.**

*“I want to thank Sen. Inhofe’s support of FAA Reauthorization including the provision to retain Contract Weather Observers,” said Mark Kranenburg, director of Will Rogers World Airport. “Contract Weather Observers enhance the margin of safety by providing key ceiling and visibility information to air traffic controllers and pilots during inclement weather conditions.”*

## Promoting Oklahoma at Farnborough Air Show

On July 12, Inhofe spoke at the sixth annual Oklahoma Aerospace Breakfast during the Farnborough International Airshow. The event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Business Roundtable, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce and MidAmerica Industrial Park.



*Inhofe greets troops at the Farnborough Air Show.*

## Appropriations Language Supporting Tulsa Tower

FAA has the responsibility to provide air traffic control services at airports across the country. Currently, there are air traffic control towers leased by FAA that have exceeded their service life, but continue to provide air traffic services. Often such towers are kept serviceable with partial structural modifications and upgrades. This is the case at Tulsa International Airport's tower, which has recently been plagued by mold and other ailments that make it an unsuitable workplace. Unfortunately, the FAA has balked at providing the contractual support necessary to complete construction on a new tower.

To address this, Inhofe secured report language in the fiscal year 2017 Transportation Appropriations Bill directing FAA to work with airports to replace aging control towers and specifically encourages the FAA to enter into cost recovery leases with airports, which would provide Tulsa with the funding certainty necessary to build a new tower. The Transportation Appropriations Bill passed the Senate on May 19.

## Remembering Bob Hoover

This year, aviation lost a legend. Bob Hoover was one of the best pilots in history and has been a stalwart in the aviation community for decades. Not only did Hoover honorably serve our nation as a U.S. Air Force test pilot during World War II, but he worked tirelessly on behalf of pilots everywhere. After the FAA famously revoked his medical certificate without cause, Hoover became the driving force and inspiration behind Inhofe's longstanding efforts to pass legislation that addressed the FAA's bureaucratic red tape. Inhofe thanks Bob for being a champion for pilots everywhere and for his contribution to the aviation community. He will surely never be forgotten.

## BANKING

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. Inhofe is dedicated to helping small banks across Oklahoma obtain needed regulatory relief from Washington's overbearing bureaucracies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Singlehandedly, the CFPB continues to propose and impose new and burdensome regulations forcing small banks and lenders to hire staff to comply with the same stringent regulatory burdens as large, Wall Street banks instead of devoting their time and resources to providing services to Oklahoman farmers and ranchers and small business owners.

### Pushing Back Against the CFPB

On Jan. 5, Inhofe joined Sen. Lankford (R-Okla.) and Reps. Lucas and Bridenstine (R-Okla.) in a letter to the CFPB expressing concern with proposed regulations that would prevent Oklahomans from having access to short term credit products. Oklahoma already has in place its own regulations that ensure consumers have safe and effective access to credit options. This effort by Washington bureaucrats to impose a one-size fits all approach that would preempt effective state laws would limit credit options for Oklahomans. CFPB made modifications to this rule that were beneficial, but continues to stymie reforms that would benefit Oklahoma's community banks. Inhofe will continue working to address the one-sized fits all regulatory approach of the Obama-era.

Community banks provide needed credit and other consumer financial products and services to Oklahoma families and small businesses across Oklahoma. On July 18, Inhofe joined 69 of his Senate colleagues in sending a letter to CFPB urging them to focus their efforts on big Wall Street banks that caused the financial crises and use their existing authority to tailor their regulatory requirements to match the unique nature of community banks. By tailoring regulations, community banks can focus their resources and staff time serving their customers instead of meeting burdensome and often redundant regulatory requirements.

### Legislation: Inhofe cosponsored the following banking legislation in 2016:

#### **S. 423, the *Privacy Notice***

***Modernization Act***, which eliminates 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 reduces a substantial amount of unnecessary mailings. This legislation was included in PL 114-94, making 2016 the first year Oklahoma's community banks were not required to comply with this onerous regulation.

#### **S. 774, the *Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act***

is legislation that 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***, is legislation that 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 mortgage for the purposes of federal regulations.

#### **S. 1383, the *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Accountability Act of 2015***

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 without Congressional involvement.

## BUDGET

### S. 3047, the *Welfare Reform and Upward Mobility Act*.

Inhofe was a cosponsor of S. 3047, legislation that would help get those on welfare back to work through programs run by the state instead of the federal government. It also has a work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and it gives the power over housing programs to the state in the form of a block grant.

## ECONOMY AND TRADE

Oklahoma exports \$1.9 billion in wheat, beef, pork and other agriculture products each year. Oklahoma is also among the top five natural gas producing states. A hallmark of the most recently enacted free trade agreements is that they have opened agriculture and energy export markets that were previously closed. Future efforts to enact free trade agreements must do the same, providing more opportunities to drill and develop our natural gas resources while maintaining our strong agricultural heritage.

### Protecting U.S. Interests in Future Trade Agreements

On Feb. 11, Inhofe voted in favor of H.R. 644, the *Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015*, which passed the Senate 75–20. This legislation modernized U.S. customs processes and procedures, reduced red tape impairing the ability of U.S. manufacturers to export their products and strengthened the enforcement of U.S. international trade laws to protect American intellectual property, combats customs evaders and enforce anti-dumping rules to protect domestic manufacturing. **H.R. 644 was signed into law on Feb. 24, and became P.L. 114-125.**

Inhofe coauthored Senate Amendment 1384 that became **Sec. 914(a) of P.L. 114-125**, which ensures that no trade agreement negotiated with the United States requires changes to any immigration laws in the United States.

Inhofe also worked to include **Section 914(b) of P.L. 114-125**, which prohibits trade agreements from including any provision that could establish obligations for the United States regarding greenhouse gas emissions.



*Inhofe joined the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce during their visit to Washington.*

## Setting the Stage for Free Trade Agreements with African Nations

In 2015, 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. Sec. 110 of P.L. 114-27 includes provisions from S. 1379 that require the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to regularly evaluate the readiness of Sub-Saharan African Nations to enter into Free Trade Agreements with the United States.

S. 1379 also included provisions requiring the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to coordinate and collaborate together with USTR to ensure that the aid they deploy in sub-Saharan Africa prepares these nations to enter into FTA discussions with the United States. This provision builds on the success of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act's (AGOA) trade preferences program by helping to set the stage for a vibrant network of future trade agreements between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa countries, essential to creating long-term economic growth. **This language was included as Section 1293, in P.L. 114-328, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, which became law on December 23.**

*“Every time I go to Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania or other countries in Africa, I see new, high-quality infrastructure being built to help their economies grow,” Inhofe said. “While the U.S. government generally ignores sub-Saharan Africa as a major potential trading partner, despite its economic advancements, countries like Brazil and China are aggressively pursuing business expansions in the region. As African economies mature in the 21st century, America should also mature its trade relationships with them. Our legislation requires the various entities and agencies of the U.S. government to collaborate on efforts to build trade based capacity in African nations. This is a step in the right direction for America to partner with and secure deeper ties to the bolstering and competitive economies in sub-Saharan Africa.”*

## Natural Gas Exports

On July 10, 2013, Inhofe led a bipartisan letter with 33 of his colleagues urging the DOE to expedite its approvals of liquefied natural gas (LNG) export applications. Before his letter, DOE had approved only two applications. In the time since then, twenty-two permits have been approved. As a result of this advocacy, November marked the first time in United States history that natural gas exports exceeded imports in the United States, further solidifying our path to becoming energy independent.

## Protecting U.S. Businesses from Chinese Interference

As China becomes more adversarial to the United States on the world stage, Chinese state-owned companies have become increasingly interested in owning and operating U.S. companies. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), chaired by the secretary of the treasury is charged with reviewing efforts by foreign owned companies to purchase or otherwise acquire U.S. companies for any implications to national security. Twice in 2016, Inhofe urged the treasury secretary to carefully review such transactions. The first was an effort by a Chinese company to acquire the Aleris Corporation, which produces specialized aluminum alloys used in defense-grade armor and aerospace applications. Aleris' specialized production of alloys and the expertise required for additional research and development in this field are a key component of our nation's defense industrial base. Chinese ownership of Aleris could result in military information or sensitive technology being transferred to the Chinese government. The second was a transaction that would have resulted in a Chinese railcar manufacturing company, already four times larger than the entire U.S. rail manufacturing sector, owning the American railcar manufacturer Vertex Railcar Corporation. In addition to hollowing out the American rail manufacturing sector, Chinese ownership of Vertex could allow Chinese hackers to steal U.S. trade secrets. Unfortunately, the Obama administration allowed this merger to go through despite Inhofe's concerns.

## EDUCATION

### S. 1805 – the School Lunch Price Protection Act

Education decisions are best made at the local level to make policy more responsive to the needs of the people. This was evident when school districts from across Oklahoma came to Capitol Hill in search of regulatory relief in our school cafeterias. After many conversations with school leaders, Inhofe introduced S. 1805, the *School Lunch Price Protection Act*, which helps prevent unnecessary price increases on school lunches. Price increases on working families can mean the difference between a child getting a healthy meal or going without. It is important for our communities to have more local control over school lunch prices instead of the blanket one size fits all standard of Obama administration. This bill was included in the *Child Nutrition, Integrity and Access Act of 2016*, which passed the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee in 2016. Work will continue on this important bill in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### Impact Aid

Inhofe was again successful in ensuring language was included in the FY17 NDAA 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.

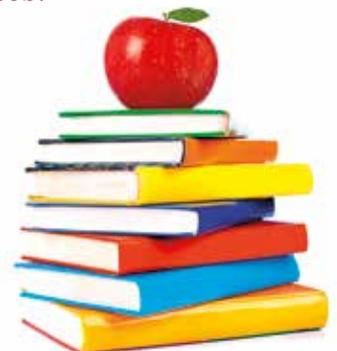
A provision Inhofe also authored fixed language affecting Impact Aid that was included in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) in December 2015, which resulted in an error that inadvertently disqualified some districts from the program. This language also delays a provision in ESSA related to the formula for qualification for the heavily impacted section of Impact Aid to provide additional time to collect data on the effects on participating school districts. Further it modifies language regarding the heavily impacted program to align with congressional intent, ensuring annual payments to one district experiencing changing demographics are not beyond congressional intent. This was necessary to ensure other districts in the program do not experience hundreds of millions of dollars in payment reductions due to unexpected payments to another district, which would have resulted in Oklahoma's Impact Aid being cut by \$450,000. **This was provision was included as Section 7004 of P.L. 114-95.**



*“Education is a local and state issue, not a federal issue, so many people do not understand how Impact Aid differs from other examples of federal overreach into education. Impact Aid simply replaces a portion of local and state property taxes which would otherwise be lost due to federal and tribal properties.*

*The program comes with few strings, and it directly serves the students intended. It is limited, responsible, and tied to legitimate needs. For these reasons, Impact Aid is the ideal model for responsible federal spending at the local level. I applaud Sen. Inhofe for his commitment to this program and to the local school districts impacted.”*

– Tom Deighan, superintendent for Lawton Public Schools



## Advancing Adoption of New Technology by Energy Industry

Federal regulations require pipelines, refineries, oil and gas facilities, electric companies, roads and bridges and many other critical infrastructure owners to regularly monitor their facilities for breaches in various protocols, including encroachment of rights of way. This task is made difficult and expensive in part because the nation's critical infrastructure is vast and spread across the whole country. It is often in rural areas away from population centers, making it difficult for monitoring to be done in an economically favorable way.

Fortunately, the aviation industry has been advancing the technological feasibility of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and they are becoming increasingly safe to operate in professional settings. Federal regulations, however, are making it difficult for the aviation industry to provide innovative solutions to meet the needs of critical infrastructure owners.

To address this, Inhofe introduced S. 2684, the *UAVs for Energy Infrastructure Act*, which would ensure operators responsible for maintaining vast networks of critical infrastructure can use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to comply with existing federal regulations and to respond to natural disasters. Compliance activities include conducting surveys required for construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure, as well as periodic patrolling of rights-of-way to prevent encroachment, unauthorized excavation or discover evidence of damage or any other conditions that might jeopardize safety. Using UAVs for any disaster response effort would provide consistent and long-term on-scene information gathering capability in spite of weather or other dangers harmful to responding personnel, reduce the threat to response personnel in emergency situations.

**This legislation was ultimately signed into law on July 15 as Section 2210 in the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016, PL 114-190.**

### List of Supporters:

The Small UAV Coalition, the National Rural Electric Cooperatives, the American Public Power Association, Edison Electric Institute, CTIA - The Wireless Association, the American Gas Association, the American Public Gas Association, the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the American Petroleum Institute, the Association of Oil Pipelines, the American Fuels and Petrochemical Manufacturers, 3D Robotics and the American Wind Energy Association.

*“Recent advancements made with drone technology gives companies with large-scale critical infrastructure the opportunity to more safely and cost effectively maintain their operations,” said Inhofe. “Whether it is an energy company delivering resources via a pipeline or a utility company maintaining electric transmissions, critical infrastructure owners and operators are responsible for a network that often stretches across thousands of miles and impacts millions of Americans. This law will allow companies to use drones in order to best guarantee their services are meeting federal regulations or to more quickly respond to disruptions caused by natural disasters.”*

## Industry Support:

- ▶ *“We appreciate the leadership of Sen. Inhofe on this important safety issue,” said **Martin Edwards, vice president of legislative affairs for the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America.** “The natural gas pipeline industry has a primary focus on safety, and small unmanned aircraft provide a new technology for improving the safety of our systems. These tools can be used for pipeline right of way inspections, surveys and emergency response. The end result is improved public safety nationwide.”*
- ▶ *“The number one goal of the oil and natural gas industry is zero incidents, and unmanned aerial system (UAS) technologies provide enormous potential to improve the safe operation of all oil and natural gas infrastructure through the ability to safely conduct preventative inspections and response activities,” said **Robin Rorick, group director of Midstream and Industry Operations at the American Petroleum Institute.** “We applaud the passage of the FAA Extension and Sen. Inhofe, in particular, for his visionary provision in the legislation that would allow UAS utilization for oil and gas facilities, refineries and pipeline inspection and response activities.”*
- ▶ *“We greatly appreciate the inclusion of Sen. Inhofe’s amendment prioritizing drone use for energy and electric power reliability,” said **Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the American Public Power Association.** “Reliable power is critical to national security, life safety, economic health and the safe operation of the national airspace. The use of new technologies like drones will help electric utilities conduct efficient system inspections and restore power faster when there are outages.”*
- ▶ *“Drones are an incredible asset to our industries and the responsible use of them by owners and operators of critical infrastructure should not be restricted,” said **Chet Thompson, president of American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers.** “Drone technology is advancing rapidly and has an important role in our future as long as it is used appropriately. Today’s decision by Congress to include language in the FAA Reauthorization bill recognizes the important role drones play in improving the safety and reliability at our refining and petrochemical facilities”*
- ▶ *“America’s electric cooperatives appreciate Chairman Inhofe’s leadership in passing legislation to streamline the permitting process for UAVs. This legislation will enable cooperatives to reduce risk for their employees, shorten outage times and save money for their member-owners,” said **Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor, NRECA.***
- ▶ *“Pipeline operators are looking forward to being able to use drones to help keep pipelines safe and protect our communities,” said **Andy Black, president and CEO of the Association of Oil Pipe Lines.** “We appreciate the leadership of Sen. Inhofe and all of the members who supported expanding tools for energy transportation and safety.”*
- ▶ *“EEI thanks Sens. Inhofe and Booker for their leadership in successfully championing a provision in the FAA reauthorization legislation to help the electric power industry’s efforts to build and maintain a smarter, more resilient grid to deliver safe and reliable energy to our customers,” said **Tom Kuhn, president of the Edison Electric Institute.** “With this legislation, Congress has made clear its priorities for the FAA, specifically highlighting the need for owners and operators of critical infrastructure to operate unmanned aircraft beyond visual line of sight. In accordance with the FAA’s recently-released rule for small commercial UAS, EEI, our member companies, and our technology partners will continue to work with the FAA to demonstrate safe UAS usage and to develop guidelines that will allow companies to improve routine maintenance of our energy infrastructure and to help restore service to our customers more quickly following natural disasters.”*

## Unlocking Energy Potential on Federal Lands

On Feb. 13, 2015, Inhofe introduced S. 490, the *Federal Lands Freedom Act* (FLFA) of 2015, 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 recognizes 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 6 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, 2015, 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—including hydraulic fracturing—since the dawn of the industry. Hydraulic fracturing was first done in Duncan, OK 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, 2015, 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 \$5.2 million for the Risk Based Data Management System at the Department of Energy, which provides funding to the GWPC, as provided in the Senate Report to S. 2804, the *Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 2017*.

## Protecting Oklahoma Pipeline Companies from Overregulation

On June 22, S. 2276, the *PIPES Act of 2016*, was signed into law. This legislation reauthorized the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline & Hazard Material Safety Administration (PHMSA). PHMSA is responsible for ensuring the safe operation of the nation's vast network of pipelines. The reauthorization includes new authorities for the administration to issue emergency orders to prevent major accidents from occurring when a known safety risk is present, and Inhofe worked to ensure language was included that requires consultation with pipeline experts prior to the issuance of an emergency order. This is important to prevent an emergency authority from actually resulting in an accident or a significant disruption to service.

## Expediting Pipeline Construction

The construction of pipelines is often hindered by the pace at which construction and right of way permits are approved. To expedite the approval of permits, Inhofe authored Amendment 2983 to ensure federal agencies accept geomatically gathered data as they consider permit applications. This ensures that federal agencies will accept data gathered by satellite and aircraft in their permit applications, which will accelerate their approval. This amendment was adopted to S. 2012.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In 2015, Iran and the permanent members of the United Nations (U.N.) Security Council—the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France, and China—plus Germany (P5+1) signed an agreement to limit Iran’s nuclear program that included reducing the amount of enriched uranium and number centrifuges to enrich uranium in the future, limit production of enriched uranium to one facility for 10 years, and agree to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to all Iranian nuclear facilities. The deal was formally implemented on Jan. 16.

Unfortunately, this deal fails on a number of accounts. First, it provides no guarantee for verification of Iran’s nuclear facilities and rewards and legitimizes Iran for violating international laws, treaties and U.N. Security Council Resolutions. Second, it rewards Iran with \$150 billion with the easing of sanctions, which will be used to expand its influence not only with terrorist organizations but also among our energy-poor allies. And further it places the Middle East on the brink of a new arms race, fails to dismantle Iran’s enrichment infrastructure and places no restrictions on Iran’s ballistic missile program.



*Sens. Inhofe and Reed met with King Abdullah II of Jordan in January.*

Sen. Jim Inhofe has unwaveringly opposed the United States negotiating a deal. Since agreeing to the Iran Deal in July 2015, Iran has harassed our Navy in international waters, illegally detained U.S. sailors, fired missiles within a mile of U.S. and coalition ships in the Strait of Hormuz, tested ballistic missiles, allowed Russian combat aircraft to operate from Iran, continued to support Hamas and Hezbollah, denounced Israel’s right to exist and continued to chant ‘Death to America.’

On Jan. 15, Inhofe sent a letter to President Obama with 12 other senators calling for the administration to hold Iran accountable for their repeated transgressions. The letter asked for a clear roadmap ahead of the forthcoming implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran. Finally, the letter highlighted the need to retain the ability to sanction Iran for its non-nuclear transgressions, particularly related to ballistic missile tests, human rights violations and support of terrorism.

In response to recent ballistic missile tests by Iran, Inhofe cosponsored S. 2725, the *Iran Ballistic Missile Sanctions Act of 2016*, to impose tough sanctions on every sector of the Iranian economy that directly or indirectly supports Iran’s ballistic missile program.

On Oct. 12, Inhofe, along with 16 other senators, sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and the Chairman of Joint Chiefs, Joe Dunford, regarding their statements before the Senate Armed Services Committee concerning the Obama administration’s \$1.7 billion cash payment to Iran, and the fact that top military officials were not notified before the payment was made. Following reports that Iran has funneled this money into its military budget, the Senators also noted that the payment may further embolden Iran, resulting in our troops and allies confronting more lethal and better-equipped adversaries. Iran is still listed by the State Department as a state sponsor of terrorism.

To address this improper payment, Inhofe cosponsored S. 3213, the *Judgment Fund Transparency and Terrorism Financing Prevention Act*, which would require the Department of Treasury to publicly disclose details after payments are made from the Judgment Fund, a permanent and indefinite appropriation to pay judgments against the United States. It would mandate no payments from the fund may be made to a state sponsor of terrorism and require payments made from this fund to state sponsors of terrorism be rescinded.

Inhofe voted for H.R. 6297, the *Iran Sanctions Extension Act*, which renews current non-nuclear sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran for another ten years. The legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 99–0 and the House of Representatives by a vote of 419–1.

### **Middle East**

Over the past two years, Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has continued to spread its control over Syria and Iraq, and it has reached out to Islamic extremist groups in Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Yemen, Somalia and Tunisia. Most recently, the group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris, killing over 130 civilians; the attack in Brussels, killing at least 30; the shooting down of a Russian plane over Egypt, killing all passengers; and the attack in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 and wounding 20 others. The attack in California was the deadliest terrorist attack in the United States since Sept. 11, 2001, until the Orlando nightclub shooting on June 12, 2016.

These 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 supported \$1.3 billion in funding for counter-ISIS activities in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in FY17, including authority to train and equip military and security partners in the region.

On March 15, Inhofe joined 14 Senators in introducing a resolution to detain ISIS fighters at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. It was introduced following the announcement that U.S. Special Forces captured an ISIS leader while carrying out Operation Inherent Resolve. As the United States continues to conduct combat operations against ISIS, U.S. forces are likely to continue capturing terrorists. Guantanamo Bay was established to house individuals who engaged in, aided, abetted or conspired to commit, acts of international terrorism and should be utilized as such as our nation faces a continued threat of terrorism.

### **Russia**

On May 26, Inhofe cosponsored S. 3007, the *Open Skies Treaty Compliance Assurance Act*. The Open Skies Treaty voice disapproval of Russia's violations of the Open Skies Treaty. Over the last year, defense and intelligence community leaders have voiced concerns over Russia's adherence to this treaty, saying it has 'become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States.' This is further compounded by Russia's continued violations of the treaty. The United States should take actions to ensure Russia once again complies with its obligations under the Open Skies Treaty, including restricting their overflights of the United States and not approving sensor upgrades.

Inhofe, a long-time supporter of Ukraine, successfully worked to include a provision that authorizes up to \$500M in security assistance to the country, including lethal assistance, to build its capacity to defend its territory and sovereignty. The language withholds half of the funds until the secretary of defense certifies that Ukraine has taken substantial action to make necessary defense reforms. Inhofe has also repeatedly questioned senior military officials during opportunities at Senate Armed Services hearings on their willingness to support and aid Ukraine.

### **Israel**

On Feb. 1, Inhofe cosponsored the *Fair Treatment of Israel in Product Labeling Act of 2016* that would rescind the Obama administration's policy requiring the special labeling of Israeli goods produced in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The administration's policy would isolate the United States' closest friend in the Middle East and giving other nations an excuse to unfairly treat Israel in trade relations.

Inhofe also cosponsored S.R. 383, a resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation. It affirms that the U.S.-Israel economic partnership has benefitted both countries and is a foundational component of the strong alliance. The resolution recognizes that science and technology innovation present promising new frontiers for U.S.-Israel economic cooperation, particularly in light of widespread drought, cybersecurity attacks and other major challenges impacting the United States.

Further, it encourages the President to regularize and expand forums of economic dialogue with Israel, foster public and private sector participation and investment, and remove barriers to, and provide incentives for, private sector market entry.

On April 25, Inhofe, along with 82 other senators, sent a letter to President Obama outlining the importance of a new and robust Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Israel. The MOU is a ten year agreement between the two governments that ensures security to the people of Israel. The letter outlines the immediate threats that Israel faces, including leading state sponsor of terrorism, Iran, and Hezbollah, which has positioned up to 150,000 rockets and missiles to Israel's north and requests that Israel be given the proper resources to defend itself including adequate funding for missile defense.

On July 26, Inhofe sent a letter to the Chairmen of the Armed Services Committees, John McCain and Mac Thornberry, requesting full funding of Israeli missile defense. This funding is incredibly important to Israeli security. The joint US-Israeli missile defense programs continue to provide critical defense capabilities that protect Israel from missile and rocket threats from as near as the Gaza strip and Lebanon to as far as Iran.

On December 23, the Obama administration failed to veto U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334 which condemns Israel settlements. Obama went against U.S foreign policy spanning numerous administrations of both parties that for there to be peace between the Israelis and Palestinians that peace must come about through direct negotiation between the parties without interference from outsiders.

Inhofe voiced his strong opposition to the UN vote, vowing to pass congressional legislation calling for the U.N. to reverse its controversial action as soon as the 115th Congress comes back in session, and congressional re-evaluation of U.S. funding of the U.N.

### **Taiwan**

On March 9, Inhofe voted in favor of S. 2426, which directs the secretary of state to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The bill was passed by the Senate by Unanimous Consent and on March 18, 2016 it became **Public Law No: 114-139**. As chairman of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, Inhofe has over the years supported legislation that assists Taiwan's free trade and security initiatives and the partnership with INTERPOL furthers these goals.

As of Oct. 26, Taiwan had not been admitted as a member of INTERPOL. Inhofe continued action on this issue by writing a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry to inquire what his office had done concerning Taiwan's membership. Because INTERPOL is an international organization the legislation previously passed did not automatically enroll Taiwan in INTERPOL. Inhofe will continue to monitor this situation as he sees the importance of Taiwan's membership.

### **North Korea**

On Feb. 10, Inhofe voted for H.R. 757, the *North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act*, which passed the Senate by a vote of 99–0. The law toughens sanctions against North Korea by forcing countries and companies around the world with a choice—either keep doing business with North Korea or do business with America. Inhofe also made a speech on the Senate floor the same day that North Korea completed another ballistic missile test, again violating U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Since assuming power in 2012, Kim Jong-un and his regime have conducted satellite launches in December 2012 and February 2016, continued to develop its ballistic missile program, conducted missile tests from several launch locations and conducted nuclear tests in February 2013 and January 2016, all in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

# HEALTHCARE

## Repealing Obamacare

The *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) has neither improved our health care system nor brought down health care costs and now we have seen more than half of non-profit co-ops go under across the nation, leaving hundreds of thousands of Americans uninsured, searching for new healthcare or facing steep penalties from the federal government. Private insurers are also dropping out of the exchange all together, leaving Americans with fewer choices for medical care.

To address this problem, Inhofe cosponsored S. 3296, *Protection from ObamaCare Monopolies Act*, which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exempt individuals living in a county with less than two health insurance issues on an exchange from the requirement to maintain minimum essential health coverage.

He also cosponsored S. 3297, *Relief from Obamacare Mandate Act of 2016*, which would create an individual mandate exemption when the average premium for self-only coverage or family coverage for the second-lowest cost silver plan increased more than 10 percent from the previous year. Both of these bills would directly benefit Oklahoma.

Inhofe is committed to using all available legislative tools to repeal Obamacare. On Dec. 3, 2015, Inhofe voted in favor of H.R. 3762, which repealed Obamacare. It passed the Senate by a vote of 52–47, but it was vetoed by President Obama on Jan. 8.

## Advancing Innovative Healthcare Research

Rolling back administrative burdens has been a key focus for Inhofe and the Republican-led Senate. One example was the complex acquisition process that every entity that receives federal funding must adhere to.

The administrative burdens associated with micro-purchases, or the procurement of low-cost supplies essential for research, has become a problem for many of Oklahoma's research institutes and universities. Inhofe introduced S. 2973 that raised the micro-purchase threshold for universities, Independent Research Institutes and non-profit research organizations to \$10,000, allowing them to focus more on fostering breakthrough innovation instead of procedural hurdles. **S. 2973 was included as Section 217 of P.L. 114-328, the FY17 NDAA.**

## Increasing Access to Medical Research and Fighting Drug Addiction

Inhofe was proud to support H.R. 34, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act*, which works to bring about increased funding for medical research targeted at diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and rare pediatric diseases. In addition, this bipartisan legislation provides \$1 billion in grants for the treatment of the devastating opioid epidemic that has spread throughout the United States, including Oklahoma. It also increases funding for the National Institute of Health (NIH) by \$4.8 billion, and completely offsets the funding. The passage of this legislation will benefit doctors, researchers, and patients alike. H.R. 34 passed the Senate on Dec. 7. **It was enacted into law on Dec. 13, as P.L. 114-255.**

In 2017, Oklahoma will only have one insurer on the exchange and rate increases of an average of 76 percent have been approved. This leaves Oklahoma with the **second highest** Obamacare rate increases in the nation.

## Expanding Medical Education Access in Oklahoma:

In 2015, Inhofe cosponsored S. 2873, the *Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act* (ECHO). This bipartisan bill integrates the Project ECHO model into health systems across the country. Project ECHO is an innovative medical education model that uses interactive videoconferencing to link specialist teams with primary care providers in rural and underserved areas. It helps rural physicians learn about diseases or conditions that the area would not necessarily have experience treating, such as the Zika virus. It also requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to perform a study that details the model's impact on the delivery of healthcare services in underserved areas. S. 2873 passed the Senate by a vote of 97-0 on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. **It was enacted into law on Dec. 14, as P.L. 114-270.**

## Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act

On July 22, S. 524, the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016* became law. CARA provides grant money to state and local authorities and organizations in an effort to fight the abuse of prescription pain relievers and heroin. Furthermore, the law directs federal government agencies to develop best practices for pain management, conduct educational outreach, coordinate with each other and audit grant recipients to ensure federal funding is being spent wisely. Oklahoma is one of the leading states for narcotic prescriptions and overdose deaths and in 2014 alone, we lost 864 of our fellow residents to this epidemic.

## Virtual Colonoscopies

In 2015, Inhofe introduced S. 2262, the *CT Colonography Screening for Colorectal Cancer Act*. This legislation would provide coverage under Medicare for CT (virtual) Colonography (CTC) screenings. 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.

In 2016, Inhofe successfully added language to the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill that encourages Medicare to provide coverage for virtual colonography screenings. Knowing firsthand the benefits of this life-saving procedure made it a priority of Inhofe to ensure more Americans had access to early detection.

**In June, the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) gave CTC an "A" grade, which is among the steps that must be taken for the procedure to be supported by Medicare.**

*"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.

## Providing Medically Necessary Foods for Military Families

**Inhofe included Sec. 714 of P.L. 114-328 that requires** "medically necessary food" to be covered under the TRICARE program. Specialized food is often medically necessary for the safe and effective management of many digestive and inherited metabolic disorders that impact digestion and absorption of nutrients. Although medically necessary food is essential for patients, it is often expensive and not uniformly reimbursed by health insurance, leaving many families with an insurmountable financial burden. Coverage under TRICARE will allow our military families the certainty and stability they need if they suffer from these issues.

## Improving Medical Care for Military Service Members & Their Families

FY17 NDAA begins a multi-year modernization of the military health care system, turning it from a ‘system-first’ culture to a ‘patient-first’ culture. It includes organizational changes at the Defense Health Agency through each of the services and down to the Military Treatment Facilities. It also modernizes TRICARE by establishing three options to better fiscally meet the needs of our service members and veterans.

Due to concerns about how the DOD would institute the proposed changes to the military health care system, Inhofe authored two amendments that were adopted, preventing any actions being taken to consolidate the defense and services medical departments or realign any infrastructure of and health care services provided by the military treatment facilities (MTF) until a comprehensive report is provided to Congress that details how these changes will impact health care being provided to our service members, their families and our veterans. **This language was included as Secs. 701, 702, 703, and 704 of P.L. 114-328.**

### S. 2912, the Trickett Wendler Right to Try Act of 2016

Inhofe cosponsored S. 2912, which bars the federal government from prohibiting or restricting the production, manufacture, distribution, prescribing or dispensing of an experimental drug, biological product or device that is: (1) intended to treat a patient who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness; and (2) is authorized by, and in accordance with, state law. The federal government would not restrict the possession or use of such a treatment by a patient certified by a physician as having exhausted all other treatment options.



## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### S. 246 – Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act

Inhofe cosponsored, S. 246, which establishes the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children in the Office of Tribal Justice of the Department of Justice. It requires the office to conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local and tribal programs that serve native children. The results of the study will then be used to identify the most successful program models to ensure we are best serving our native children. The Senate passed this bill on Sept. 29, by unanimous consent. It enacted into law on Oct. 14, as P.L. 114-244.

### Oklahoma, Chickasaw, and Choctaw Water Agreement

On Aug. 11, the state of Oklahoma, city of Oklahoma City, and the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations reached a settlement to end a water rights and tribal sovereignty dispute stemming back to the 19th century. The settlement acknowledges tribal sovereignty and meets the tribes’ conservation guidelines for an area that spans over approximately 22 counties in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma while the state of Oklahoma would continue to manage the state’s natural water supply. The deal also guarantees Oklahoma City’s long-term access to Southeast Oklahoma as a drinking water source and sets lake limits at levels that meet tribes’ recreational, cultural and water use claims. A provision in WIIN provides for the Congressional approval required for the settlement since it involves the Department of Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers.

## ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

With the new Republican Majority, Inhofe became chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for the 114th Congress. He promised an active and ambitious two years and he delivered on that promise. Chairman Inhofe prioritized enacting the first long term reauthorization of the federal highway program in ten years, passed the historic regulatory reform of the 1976 *Toxic Substances Control Act*, and sent a new water resources development act to the President as the very last vote of the 114th Congress. Inhofe's chairmanship focused on

rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure, stopping jobkilling regulations like EPA's so-called Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, and promoting policies proven to create jobs and economic prosperity while building on environmental progress.



### Fast Lane Grants

- ▶ Bryan County was selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) as one of the first grant recipients under Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program, referred to as the FASTLANE program. Bryan County will receive \$62 million to improve safety and efficiency of high volume freight traffic along the US 69/75 corridor in southern Oklahoma.
- ▶ As outlined by the FAST Act, which was signed into law on Dec. 4, 2015, DOT is required to notify the authorizing committees of jurisdiction of projects being awarded under the new FASTLANE program. The list must remain with the committees for a 60-day review period before the agency can issue awards. DOT notified the committees on July 5 of 18 projects selected to receive a total of \$759 million in fiscal year 2016. A list of those projects is available by clicking here.
- ▶ *"I am thrilled to hear of the news of the FASTLANE grant, which will be a huge benefit to Oklahoma but also to nationwide commerce and safety," Mike Patterson, executive director for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, said. "Thanks to the continued efforts and leadership of Senator Inhofe, this grant will help in upgrading US-69 for access and added connectivity. This grant is the answer to a long-standing need that previously lacked the necessary funds. Construction of these grade separations between Durant and Calera will greatly improve traffic safety and the efficiency of freight traffic along this entire corridor, which connects many Oklahoma and regional industries to the nation."*
- ▶ *"In coordination with Sen. Inhofe, Congressman Markwayne Mullin and Choctaw nation, we were able to narrow down the best project to put forward for grant consideration under the National Significant Freight and Highway Projects program," Gary Ridley, Oklahoma's secretary of transportation, said. "This is a prime example of Congress working together with the state and local representatives to advance a project of national importance. The US 69/75 corridor has become a dangerous corridor, resulting in numerous severe accidents over the years. This expansion project will improve overall safety for everyday users of the intersection corridor while also creating cost-saving efficiency in the movement of goods across the region."*

## **Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)**

S.697/H.R. 2576, *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act*

For the first time in 40 years since the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) was enacted, Congress amended TSCA. For the first time in 20 years, Congress rewrote and enacted a new environmental statute. TSCA enacts a new uniform federal regulatory program that will improve public confidence in the safety of chemicals, promote innovation, and provide manufacturers with certainty in both federal and state chemical regulation. The legislation ultimately garnered near-unanimous support throughout Congress and a broad range of support from stakeholders, from the Environmental Defense Fund to the National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Chemistry Council, ExxonMobil, and Dow Chemical.

## **Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN)**

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) fulfills many important Oklahoma priorities. It helps Oklahoma rural electric cooperatives and the families they serve by returning the regulation of coal combustion residuals to states and stopping the Corps from charging fees to cross Corps land. The WIIN bill addresses Army Corps projects in Oklahoma by letting the Port of Catoosa and the Port of Muskogee provide services and funds to keep their ports and locks operational, by preventing deauthorization of the project to deepen the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, and by directing the Corps to find solutions for the Tulsa and West Tulsa Levee System. The bill also addresses recreation at Corps lakes in Oklahoma, continuing a program to encourage recreation opportunities, and transferring easements at Grand Lake to the state. WIIN also addresses the Oklahoma, Chickasaw, and Choctaw water agreement and creates opportunities to increase water supplies at Corps reservoirs.

Oklahoma Provisions Included in WIIN:

### **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEER PROVISIONS:**

#### **Oklahoma, Chickasaw, and Choctaw Water Agreement**

On Aug. 11, the state of Oklahoma, city of Oklahoma City, and the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations reached a settlement to end a water rights and tribal sovereignty dispute stemming back to the 19th century. The settlement acknowledges tribal sovereignty and meets the tribes' conservation guidelines for an area that spans over approximately 22 counties in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma while the state of Oklahoma would continue to manage the state's natural water supply. The deal also guarantees Oklahoma City's long-term access to Southeast Oklahoma as a drinking water source and sets lake limits at levels that meet tribes' recreational, cultural and water use claims. A provision in WIIN provides for the Congressional approval required for the settlement since it involves the Department of Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers.

#### **Tulsa and West Tulsa Levee System**

WIIN authorizes the Corps to develop a plan for modifying the Tulsa and West Tulsa Levee System. The Corps must provide recommendations for modifying the original levee system to address deficiencies identified in the recent levee risk assessment. The bill also requires expedited budget consideration for any parts of the system that are classified as a Class I or Class II (i.e. very high risk) under the Levee Safety Action Classification tool developed by the Corps.

#### **Providing Better Protection After a Flooding Disaster**

WIIN gives the Corps authority to increase the level of protection when rebuilding a levee after a disaster if the Corps determines it is in the public interest, including consideration of whether the same levee has had to be rebuilt multiple times and whether there is an opportunity to reduce risk of loss of life and property.

#### **McClellan-Kerr (MKARNS)**

WIIN gives the Corps authority to establish partnerships with local entities to ensure safe, functional operation of projects along the waterway. These partnerships allow the Corps to accept and use funds, materials and services donated by non-federal interests to help address the backlog of maintenance at Corps projects. WIIN also makes sure the project to deepen

the MKARNS to support increased commerce will not be deauthorized while it is waiting for funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

### **Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA)**

WIIN conveys the Army Corps of Engineers easements on Grand Lake to GRDA. Due to multiple authorities overseeing the shoreline of Grand Lake, confusion over the maintenance of easements has led to encroachments. This provision will provide certainty and efficiency for landowners and GRDA when it comes to these easements.

### **Oklahoma Electric Coops**

Electric cooperatives in Oklahoma have been trying to renew easement agreements with the Corps for their lines that cross Corps property. Unlike prior easement agreements, the Corps is now charging upwards of hundreds of thousands of dollars to renew these easements. In WIIN, easement fees will be waived for rural electric co-ops, allowing these non-profits to continue operating without costly fees, the need for new infrastructure, and without raising rates on their customers.

### **Leveraging Federal Assets to Increase Water Supply**

WIIN gives the Corps authority to review proposals made by non-Federal interests to increase water supplies at reservoirs by increasing storage capacity, modifying project management, or accessing water that has been released. Any changes must be carried out under existing authorities and funded by the non-Federal interests, using no federal dollars.

### **Support for Reducing Chlorides in the Red River**

Inhofe has been a champion for reducing excessive chlorides in the Red River. WIIN contains several provisions to address this issue, including authorizing the Corps to facilitate transfer of desalination technologies from other countries with academic and institutional knowledge to reduce chlorides.

WIIN also clarifies the WIFIA program established by Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 to make sure chloride control is eligible for low cost loans from this program and that funds already expended on reducing chlorides in the Red River count towards the calculation of project costs.

WIIN also establishes a program to provide technical assistance for the development of innovative technologies to address water supply issues, including chloride control, and reauthorizes the Water Desalination Act of 1996.

### **Expediting Permit Reviews**

WIIN expands the current authority for the Corps to accept funds from non-Federal interests to expedite permits for rail transportation projects.

### **Promotion of Recreational Development Along Corps Projects**

WIIN transfers Corps property along the shore of Lake Eufaula to the Department of Interior to hold in trust for use by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to facilitate access to the lake for recreational purposes from land they already own. Furthermore, WIIN continues a demonstration program to promote and enhance recreational experiences on Oklahoma Corps of Engineers lakes. The development on and around lakes provides an important boost to the economy of surrounding communities by bringing visitors and jobs and provides taxpayers that have built these lakes with an additional benefit. WIIN also includes a provision that allows service providers to keep recreation fees they collect at Corps lakes, encouraging the development of more recreational facilities.



*Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer (D-Calif.) at TSCA press conference.*

## EPA WATER ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS:

### **Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities**

In the United States, we still have underserved communities that lack basic services. WIIN authorizes a grant program to assist small and disadvantaged communities in complying with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. A priority is given to underserved communities. This section authorizes a total of \$300 million over five years.

### **Water Supply Cost Savings**

Some community water systems are so small that hooking up to a centralized system is cost-prohibitive. WIIN establishes a drinking water technology clearinghouse to provide information on cost-effective, innovative, and alternative drinking water delivery systems, including systems that are supported by wells.

### **Small Treatment Works Technical Assistance**

WIIN reauthorizes technical assistance for small drinking water systems. WIIN also authorizes a similar program for drinking water systems on tribal lands.

#### **Inhofe: My Commitment to Flint and All Communities Facing a Water Infrastructure Crisis**

*By U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe  
September 23, 2016*

THE HUFFINGTON POST

When the national press opened the eyes of America to the lead water contamination crisis affecting Flint, Michigan, a city of roughly 100,000 people, I told my staff it was time to get to work to see what went wrong and what could be done.

In the days following the resignation of EPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman, I joined Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) in sending a letter to EPA Adm. Gina McCarthy asking for the agency to explain in detail what they knew and when. I then got to work with Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) on a legislative solution to address the issue not only in Flint, but across the nation, of aging water infrastructure.

Our bill, the Drinking Water Safety and Infrastructure Act, adopts a fiscally responsible approach to provide federally backed loans to states so that they can quickly address infrastructure that is contributing to a public health crisis. In this \$220 million package, \$50 million would also go towards programs to identify and mitigate lead poisoning, specifically in regards to children and pregnant and nursing mothers.

When our bipartisan efforts to attach this package to a moving piece of legislation failed, I vowed to fold it into the 2016 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that my committee was in the process of developing. As part of this process, we held a hearing on April 7 where I invited as witnesses David Berger, mayor of Lima, Ohio, and Aurel Arndt, of Pennsylvania, chair of the Water Utility Council of the American Water Works Association.

In the hearing, Berger testified that while cities are striving to provide their residents with adequate water and wastewater services, the costs to comply with federal mandates have become so "unsustainable" that cities cannot handle them in an "affordable manner." Arndt further expounded on this crisis, stating that "often a large investment in infrastructure is required that is too large to be accommodated affordably in a short time frame only through local rates and charges."

This led Senator Barbara Boxer and I to include in WRDA 2016 not only the Drinking Water Safety and Infrastructure Act in its entirety, but also language to address the need for a better, more cohesive partnership between local governments and the federal government to ensure adequate and safe water and wastewater infrastructure across the nation.

By April 28, Boxer and I had introduced WRDA 2016 and passed it out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote of 19 to 1. In this legislation, we included new provisions to provide critical support and reforms to help small and disadvantaged communities improve access to clean and safe drinking water. The bill would also empower states and local governments to prioritize federal mandates based on the greatest health threats for their communities and to do it on a schedule that is affordable. Not only did we want to help communities in crisis now, but also to prevent future water infrastructure emergencies.

On September 15, when the Senate passed WRDA 2016 with an overwhelming vote of 95 to 3, I pledged to not let politics, or any lame-duck session, jeopardize the emergency relief in WRDA 2016 and to get this signed into law by the end of this year. I have been standing with my colleagues in Michigan from the beginning in support of our fiscally responsible solutions to help not only the Flint community, but also other communities facing drinking water emergencies and water infrastructure challenges, solutions that a Republican-majority Senate has supported strongly.

WRDA 2016 not only provides the critical support Flint needs now but it also will help to prevent future water and wastewater infrastructure crises across the nation. WRDA 2016 is the right vehicle, and I am committed to getting this bill to the president's desk.

## **COAL ASH PROVISION:**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule on Dec. 19, 2014, to regulate the management and disposal of coal combustion residuals from utilities as a nonhazardous waste under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Because of the limited authority under RCRA Subtitle D, the requirements of the EPA rule apply directly to facilities and are enforceable only by citizen suits, not through state or federal permit programs. This legislation amends RCRA to authorize State permit programs, subject to EPA approval and oversight, to regulate coal combustion residual units based on the technical standards in EPA's rule or state-specific standards that are at least as protective as those in the EPA rule.

## **IMMIGRATION**

President Obama pursued reckless immigration policies since he first came to office, including 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.

### **Executive Amnesty**

On Nov. 19, 2014, President Obama announced plans to provide executive amnesty and work permits to roughly five million illegal immigrants. On Feb. 7, 2015, a federal court in Texas issued a preliminary injunction to the President's executive amnesty program, preventing it from moving forward. This injunction was later upheld by the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

On April 4, Inhofe joined a group of 43 Senate Republicans in filing an amicus brief in the Supreme Court in support of the challenge by a majority of the nation's governors and attorneys general of the states, led by the State of Texas, to the Obama administration's November 2014 executive actions on immigration. The Supreme Court heard arguments on this case on April 18. Due to a 4–4 decision on June 23, the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision upholding the preliminary injunction was allowed to stay in place. With this ruling, the Courts affirmed Sen. Inhofe's position that the President overstepped his legal authority to grant amnesty independent of Congressional action.

### **Keep Our Communities Safe Act**

Inhofe introduced S. 291, the *Keep Our Communities Safe Act*. This bill would allow 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 did 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.

### **English Language Unity Act**

Inhofe is a strong advocate for legal immigration and he believes that immigrants are best able to contribute to our nation when they learn English. He is the sponsor of S. 678, the *English Language Unity Act*, which makes English the official language of the United States.

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

- ◆ *S. 3100, Stop Dangerous Cities Act* – Inhofe was a cosponsor of this bill that would prohibit a sanctuary jurisdiction from receiving grants under certain Economic Development Assistance Programs or the Community Development Block Grant Program. Furthermore, the bill would provide that a locality that complies with a detainer is deemed to be an agent of the Department of Homeland Security and limits the liability of a state or political subdivision for actions in compliance with the detainer. **Inhofe voted in favor of this bill on July 6, but it failed 53-44, due to Democrats filibustering.**
- ◆ *S. 2193, Kate's Law* – Inhofe is a cosponsor of S. 2193, legislation sponsored by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) that would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being deported. It would also create a new penalty for any person denied admission or deported three or more times and then reenters illegally and would create a five-year mandatory minimum for illegal reentry for an individual who has a prior felony or convicted of illegal reentry twice before. 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. **Inhofe voted in favor of this bill on July 6, but it failed 55-42, due to Democrats filibustering.**
- ◆ *S. 1640, Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act* – This bill defunds President Obama's executive amnesty, authorizes state and local governments to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, bars sanctuary jurisdictions from receiving certain federal grants, and provides additional resources and support for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers to bolster their ability to enforce immigration laws. The bill also allows 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. 3276, Taking Action Against Drunk Drivers Act* – Inhofe is an original cosponsor of this bill that would require the mandatory detention of an alien who is here illegally and has a pending federal or state DUI/DWI charge. Furthermore, under this bill an alien convicted of three or more DUI/DWI offense is inadmissible or deportable
- ◆ *S. Amdt. 2947* – Inhofe cosponsored this amendment to H.R. 4038, the *American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015*, which would require supplemental certifications and background investigations into certain refugees' social media or other publications to ensure that they have not engaged in any promotion or support of a foreign terrorist organization.
- ◆ *S. Amdt. 2948* – Inhofe cosponsored this amendment to H.R. 4038, the *American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015*, which would require the federal government to notify States of refugees that will be resettled in that state
- ◆ *S. Amdt. 2949* – Inhofe cosponsored this amendment to H.R. 4038, the *American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015*, which would require the Department of State to prioritize the issuance of special immigrant visas for Iraqi and Afghan translators.

**He is a coauthor of the following legislation that improves the accountability of our immigration policies:**

- ◆ *S. 686*, a bill that prevents 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.

**Keep Our Communities Safe Act would protect public from criminal illegal aliens**

By U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe  
June 22, 2016



Tulsa County commissioners on Monday voted to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain their inmates and train local deputies to refer threats or violent criminals to federal authorities.

Entering into a memorandum of understanding has been a routine procedure until last week when it was temporarily delayed due to protests by illegal immigrant activists — the same type of activists you see across the country pushing sanctuary policies that protect criminal aliens and allow them to continue committing crimes against our citizens.

Both the Tulsa County commissioners and Tulsa County Sheriff stand by the importance of the ICE program that works with local law enforcement to keep criminal aliens off our streets. Hundreds of sheriffs across the country just want to do their job of keeping criminals off the streets, and yet their efforts are continually frustrated by liberal activists who seek to shield those same criminals from the consequences of their actions.

We should stand with our local law enforcement who work every day to ensure the safety of others.

Whether criminal immigrants are here legally or illegally, it should not be controversial to deny them the privilege of staying in our country when they are committing crimes such as homicide, kidnappings, assault, and sex offenses. When we refuse to do so, we reward their behavior and give them the opportunity to continue violating our citizens.

In 2014, ICE released over 30,000 criminal aliens from custody and within one year, more than 1,800 of them went on to commit over 2,500 new crimes. To boil it down even further, between 2010 and 2015, we've had 135 preventable homicides occur in our communities across the country by criminal aliens that have been released by the administration. This is unacceptable.

One of the reasons criminal aliens have been released is because of two little-known Supreme Court cases. These cases determined that criminal aliens cannot be detained longer than six months while awaiting deportation. However, there are many factors that can prevent a deportation from taking place within that six-month period, which in turn sets the criminal alien up to simply be released.

In order to address this issue, I introduced the Keep Our Communities Safe Act in the past two Congresses, and I introduced it as an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill, currently before the Senate. This legislation would allow for the Department of Homeland Security to petition the courts and hold a criminally convicted alien for renewable, six-month periods until deportation occurs if the secretary deems the alien would be a threat to national security or the safety of the community, among other reasons.

Some organizations, such as the ACLU, believe this bill amounts to indefinite detention in violation of a criminal's due process rights. However, this bill requires the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to recertify that a person is a threat every six months.

Furthermore, an alien can submit evidence for a review of his detention and will still have access to our courts, giving judges a say in the process.

I'm working to bring this legislation up for a vote so that we can continue to support sheriffs across the nation who are working to prevent crimes and keep our communities safe.

## JUDICIARY

### Limiting the Power of Federal Rulemaking Agencies

“Chevron deference” is a legal test that courts use when reviewing an executive agency’s actions. Essentially, courts will defer to an agency’s expertise when it comes to interpreting an ambiguous statute unless it is unreasonable. This stems from a case in the 1980s known as *NRDC v Chevron*, and it has been used by agencies to dramatically expand their regulatory power. Sen. Inhofe is opposed to federal agencies indiscriminately increasing their power through the *Chevron* Deference doctrine and has cosponsored S. 2727, *Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2016*, that would repeal *Chevron* deference by modifying the scope of judicial review for agency actions to allow courts to decide de novo, or “anew,” all relevant questions of law, including the interpretation of constitutional and statutory provisions and rules.

### Protecting Intellectual Property

Inhofe has been a longtime defender of intellectual property rights. For years, many nefarious actors around the world have tried to steal American business’ trade secrets to profit off of our innovation. To protect the right of companies to defend themselves against corporate espionage, Inhofe cosponsored S. 1890, the *Defend Trade Secrets Act*, which would create a private civil cause of action for trade secret misappropriation that can be filed in a U.S. district court. By providing a federal private right of action for trade secrets, the *Defend Trade Secrets Act* provides federal protection to trade secrets for the first time, ensuring the competitiveness and innovation of American companies. **It passed the Senate by a vote of 87–0 on April 4, and was enacted into law as P.L. 114-153 on May 11.**

### Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act

Due to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, foreign governments are generally immune from lawsuits brought in U.S. courts. S. 2040, the *Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism* (JASTA), creates an exception to this immunity when injury is alleged from an act of intentional terrorism occurring inside the United States. JASTA amends the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) to clarify that an action brought pursuant to ATA, liability can be extended when someone aids and abets or conspires with a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization by “knowingly providing assistance” to that organization. **It passed the Senate by a voice vote on May 17, and was enacted into law as P.L. 114-222 on Sept. 28, when Congress overrode a presidential veto.**



## LABOR

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Throughout the Obama administration, the Department of Labor has been among the most aggressive regulators, hindering the ability of American small businesses to grow, expand, and create more jobs.

### Overtime Rule

The Department of Labor (DOL) released its final rule relating to overtime pay on May 18. Under the new rule, employees earning up to \$47,476 a year—or \$913 a week—will be eligible for overtime pay starting on Dec. 1. That's a doubling of the salary threshold for overtime eligibility from the previous \$23,660 a year. This will cause many companies to move salaried employees to hourly and consider reducing employer-sponsored benefits, such as retirement and health plans. In addition to discouraging many salaried workers with a newfound hourly status, the rule also reduces the flexibility of employers to provide innovative methods of incentivizing hard work.

Recognizing the negative impact of this rule, Inhofe opposed it and sent a letter to DOL explaining Oklahoma's concerns with the regulation on Sept. 4, 2015, and he cosponsored S. 2707, the *Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act*, which reverses the overtime rule. **On Nov. 22, a federal court in Texas issued an injunction blocking the rule, preventing it from going into effect.** Inhofe will now work with the Trump administration to permanently stop this rule from being implemented.

### Joint Employer Rule

Another ongoing battle lies within the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and their new standard for defining a "joint employer". In August 2015, NLRB released its long-awaited decision in Browning-Ferris Industries case, which was set to define the joint employer relationship. Prior the decision, for more than 30 years the NLRB had taken the position that one business cannot be held liable for the employment-related matters of another business unless that first business had "direct and immediate" control over the employees in question. The NLRB's decision revised that standard saying there is no longer a requirement that control be "direct and immediate," but that indirect control, including unexercised control, may suffice to find a joint-employer relationship. This decision will greatly reduce any incentive for a corporation to sell franchises or subcontract business opportunities, which will stunt economic growth. Inhofe cosponsored S. 2686, the *Protecting Local Business Opportunity Act*, which reverses the joint employer rule.





## Fiduciary Rule

DOL also finalized a rule that put additional burden on financial advisors. Department of Labor’s fiduciary rule would broaden the definition of investment advice, adding more financial advisors as “fiduciaries.” A fiduciary is an official regulatory term that imposes strict requirements on the management of financial assets. As a result of this change, many advisors to smaller plans and investors are deciding to no longer offer their services because of the extra expense and cost of compliance with the rule. This will have a negative impact on smaller investors, which tend to need guidance the most, and potentially deter them from saving for retirement. **Inhofe cosponsored S. 2502 *Affordable Retirement Advice Protection Act*, and S. 2505, *SAVERS Act of 2016*, which would nullify the rule. In May, Inhofe cosponsored and voted in favor of H.J. Resolution 88, a Joint Resolution of Disapproval of Fiduciary Rule. This bill was vetoed by President Obama on June 8**

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. It would also prevent unions from using employees’ dues and fees for purposes unrelated to their bargaining functions—including political contributions and expenditures—without the employees’ written consent and prevents ambush elections.
- ▶ **S.248, the *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015***, which would exempt tribal owned businesses located on tribal lands from burdensome NLRB standards.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Inhofe is a strong advocate for our nation's federal and local law enforcement officials and is constantly looking for ways to improve their ability to protect the nation.

Inhofe is an original cosponsor 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. **This bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on December 16, 2015, and was signed into law on March 9, becoming P.L. 114-133.**

*S. Res. 539, condemning the horrific acts of violence and hatred in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016. (Passed 7-14-16 by UC)*

*S. Res. 606, honoring the memories and legacies of the 3 law enforcement officers who lost their lives on July 17, 2016.*

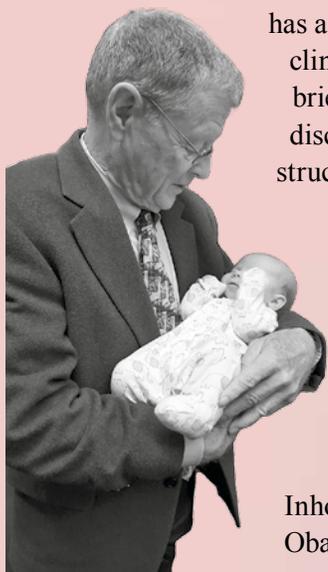
*S. 2694, Lifesaving Gear for Police Act*—Inhofe is an original cosponsor this bill which would overturn President Obama's executive order preventing the transfer of military surplus equipment to state and local law enforcement agencies.

*S. 2895, Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act of 2016*—Inhofe cosponsored this bill that would revise the statute of limitations for a victim of a human trafficking offense or federal sexual offense to file a civil action to recover damages. Under current law the 10-year statute of limitations begins from the date of the cause of action. This bill will start the 10-year statute of limitations from when the victim discovers the offense or injury and extends the current three-year statute of limitations to 10 years from when a minor victim reaches the age of 18.



Inhofe has always believed that life begins at conception and he has been a harsh critic of abortion. Inhofe was an original cosponsor of S. 2464, the *Life at Conception Act of 2016*, which declares the right of life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in all humans at each stage of life, including the moment of fertilization. Inhofe is also a cosponsor of S. 2927, the *Conscience Protection Act of 2016*, which would prohibit the federal, state and local governments from penalizing or discriminating against a healthcare provider based on the provider's refusal to be involved in, or provide coverage for, abortion.

In February, Inhofe signed onto an amicus brief in the case of *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*. This case started because Texas enacted a new abortion law that requires abortions to be performed by a doctor that has admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the clinic. The law also requires abortion clinics to be held to the same safety standards as other outpatient surgery clinics. Inhofe's amicus brief asked that the court uphold Texas' law, which is particularly necessary after the disturbing discovery of Kermit Gosnell's abortion clinic in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court struck down this law on June 27, by a vote of 5–3.



On March 4, Inhofe joined a letter to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting that the agency investigate and report up-to-date information regarding federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its affiliates during the fiscal years of 2013–2015. This is a follow up to congressional investigations into the allegations that Planned Parenthood was engaged in an illegal scheme to profit off of the sale of fetal tissue. This was uncovered by an undercover investigator in 2015.

Inhofe was outraged by these discoveries and introduced S. 1877, which would require President Obama's Attorney General to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate these allegations at

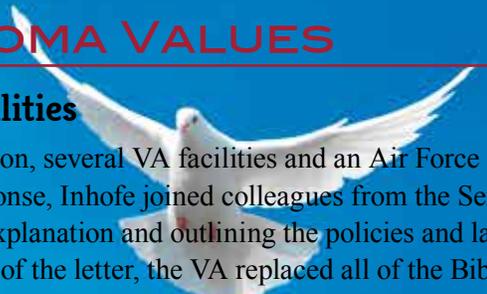
Planned Parenthood. Inhofe also voted in favor of H.R. 3762, which defunded Planned Parenthood. This bill passed the Senate by a vote of 52–47, but President Obama vetoed it on Jan. 8.

### Inhofe also cosponsored the following pro-life bills:

- ◆ S. 404, the *Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act*, a bill authored by Sen. Rubio (R-Fla.) that would prohibit taking minors across state lines to avoid state parental notification laws. The bill would also 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 including funding that falls outside of the appropriations process. The annual appropriations bills include such riders; this bill would make it permanent.
- ◆ S. 2066, the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* was also coauthored by Inhofe. It 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.
- ◆ S. Amdt. 298, an amendment eliminating the exemption from criminal penalties provided to people who smuggle their family members into the country within the Domestic Trafficking Victim's Fund.



# RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & OKLAHOMA VALUES



## Bible Displays in Veterans Administration (VA) Facilities

Following complaints from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, several VA facilities and an Air Force base removed Bibles from their Missing Man Table displays. In response, Inhofe joined colleagues from the Senate and the House in a letter to VA Secretary McDonald requesting an explanation and outlining the policies and laws that allow for the use of a Bible in certain circumstances. As a result of the letter, the VA replaced all of the Bible displays at their facilities.

## Freedom of Religion

Inhofe joined an amicus brief in April in the case of *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Pauley*. This case emerged after the Missouri Department of Natural Resources denied a grant for recycled tires to be provided to a playground at a church preschool in Columbia, MO. The amicus brief argues that the application of Missouri's constitutional amendment in the case is a violation of the First Amendment's guarantee of at least neutrality toward religion and the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. This case will likely be heard during the 2016 Term of the Supreme Court, which is ongoing.

## Transgender Bathrooms

On May 19 and 20, Inhofe joined colleagues on two letters to Attorney General Lynch and Department of Education Secretary King regarding guidance they sent to schools and universities on the how they should accommodate transgendered students when it comes to bathrooms and gym facilities. The Senators informed the agency heads that it was not their place to issue guidance that has the force of law and that the issue of transgendered bathroom use should be handled locally and, furthermore, is a matter for Congress and the Courts to determine. **On Aug. 22, a federal judge in Virginia blocked the transgender bathroom access guidelines from going into effect.**

Inhofe also joined an amicus brief in the case *G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board*, which challenges the Obama administration's reinterpretation of Title IX forcing schools and universities to accommodate transgendered students as the federal government sees fit. The expansion of Title IX is a matter that should be taken up by the legislature and is not a matter for a government agency to redefine the law. The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments on this case in 2017.

## National Bison Legacy Act

In 1972, Oklahoma designated the American bison as its state mammal. In 2016, the American Bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States, H.R. 2908, the *National Bison Legacy Act* was signed into law on May 9. Inhofe has been a strong advocate of designating the American bison as the national mammal, cosponsoring the Senate companion legislation, S. 2032.

## SECOND AMENDMENT

### 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, 2015. 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, 2015, successfully blocking any federal appropriations dollars from being used for the treaty, keeping the United States from participating in the treaty. **Inhofe supported the extension of these provisions through April 2017, in H.R. 2028, which passed the Senate on Dec. 9, and was enacted as P.L. 114-254 the following day.**

### Combating the Regulation of Ammunition

On March 9, 2015, Inhofe sent a letter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) after it announced a framework to make most rifle ammunition illegal. As a result of Inhofe's letter, the ATF revoked its proposal on March 10, 2015, and stopped working on it.

On Jan. 19, Inhofe introduced S. 2444, the *Alternative Ammunition Manufacturing Act*, which will require the administration to act on an ammunition manufacturer's waiver application within 60 days of receiving the request or the waiver will be automatically granted. Recently, anti-gun states have started banning the sale of ammunition that contains certain common materials like lead and copper. To address this, manufacturers began designing ammunition using alternatives. Current law, however, requires ATF to approve waivers for new ammunition. Though dozens of applications are currently pending, ATF has not approved or denied a single application in years, necessitating the need for this legislation. S. 2444 is supported by the National Rifle Association (NRA), the National Sports Shooter Foundation (NSSF) and Gun Owners of America (GOA).



### Protecting Second Amendment Rights of our Senior Citizens

Inhofe has been one of several Senators conducting oversight into the Social Security Administration's (SSA) efforts to report certain recipients to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) despite the fact that these individuals have not been found legally incompetent or given due process of law before their Second Amendment rights are stripped. Inhofe remains committed to working with SSA and the Trump administration to ensure that citizens' rights are protected- both the Second Amendment and the Fifth Amendment.

### Protecting the Right to Repatriate American Made Rifles

Currently there are 80,000 U.S. made M1 Garand rifles in the Republic of Korea that they no longer require and intend to dispose. These rifles were received from the United States through sales and grants. The U.S. Army has the authority to coordinate repatriation for these rifles but no funds to do so. Inhofe authored an amendment that was adopted that will allow the U.S. Army to use a third party to recover these rifles and bring them back to the United States under the supervision and disposition by the Army, at no cost to the Army. The Army would take possession of as many of the rifles as required to meet military ceremonial needs and provide the remainder to the Citizen's Marksmanship Program (CMP). The non-profit CMP, known for their firearm safety courses, marksmanship competitions and scholarship program, have offset their costs through a congressionally approved program of selling surplus rifles for two decades. **This amendment was included in P.L. 114-328, which was enacted on Dec. 23.**

# TAXES

## Internet Tax Freedom Act

Inhofe cosponsored S. 431, the *Internet Tax Freedom Forever Act*. This legislation would forever prevent state and local jurisdictions from imposing new taxes on access to the internet or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. Such taxes would discourage innovation and hinder small business owners and other entrepreneurs from using the internet to build and grow their businesses. **This bill was included as Section 922, in P.L. 114-125, which was signed into law on Feb. 24.**



*Inhofe accepted the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), "Taxpayer Super Hero" Award.*

## Indian Lands Accelerated Depreciation

On Sept. 28, Inhofe introduced legislation to make permanent the Indian Lands Accelerated Depreciation tax provision and make the provision elective to the taxpayer, providing Oklahoma companies with flexibility to choose the depreciation schedule that best suits their needs. This temporary provision is part of a collection of tax provisions known as "extenders" that are reviewed, revised, and extended every couple of years.

Inhofe has introduced legislation to extend this provision every Congress since 2005. The provision encourages development and investment in Oklahoma by allowing businesses that purchase capital equipment for use on former or current Indian lands to depreciate that property more than 40 percent faster than would otherwise be allowed. 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. **It was last extended in P.L. 114-92 through 2016.**

*"Congress continues to pass into law short-term extensions of the Indian Lands Accelerate Depreciation tax provision and it is time to make this provision permanent," Inhofe said. "This tax incentive has successfully spurred business development on current and former Indian lands, creating jobs and economy opportunity for a number of people in my state. By making this permanent, the tax code would provide a level of certainty for businesses to heavily consider a vast majority of Oklahoma when mapping out their investments beyond 2016."*

## Repealing the Death Tax

Inhofe is a cosponsor of S. 860, which would permanently repeal the death tax. He also joined 42 of his colleagues in a letter to the Treasury Department opposing new regulations that would significantly increase the estate tax burden on family farms and businesses. If finalized, these regulations would contradict long-standing legal precedent and greatly discourage families from continuing to operate and grow their farms and businesses for eventual transfer to future generations. Because of congressional oversight, the Obama administration did not move forward on this regulation. The Trump administration is not expected to advance it either.



## VETERANS

### Improvement of Oklahoma's VA facilities

The treatment of our country's veterans is of great importance to Inhofe, a veteran himself. While Congress has made considerable progress in improving the quality of life for our armed forces and veterans, a lot of work remains undone. In Oklahoma, Inhofe remains deeply concerned about the condition of our Veterans Affairs (VA) health facilities, which have come under appropriate scrutiny in the last year following reports of veterans receiving terrible care. Inhofe continues to work hundreds of cases on behalf of Oklahoma veterans who have experienced inadequate care or blocked access to benefits.

On Jan. 15, Inhofe wrote the VA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to request a visit to Oklahoma facilities together with an outside entity, such as the Joint Commission, to ensure Oklahoma's VA health facilities are being held to the same standards as private sector facilities. The VA initially denied the request, but they relented after Inhofe's refused to allow the new VA Inspector General to be confirmed by the Senate and begin his work until they agreed to his request. These inspections helped ensure our VA facilities in Oklahoma are being held accountable to that same standards as private facilities. These inspections have concluded and the reports will be released soon.



To ensure the VA is held to private sector standards at all times and across the country, Inhofe introduced S. 2554, the *Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability Act of 2016*, which would give the director of each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) the explicit authority to contract with an outside entity to review their VA facility alongside the IG. The bill also grants VA leadership at the regional level the authority to fire and demote any staff that are failing to provide adequate care to veterans to better facilitate management improvements at the VA. Inhofe also testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on the importance of this legislation on June 29. The provision of S. 2554 allowing VISN directors' authority to hire outside entities to conduct investigations was included as Section 14 of S. 3021, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on Dec. 10. It was also included as H.R. 6435, which passed the House by voice vote on Dec. 8. Unfortunately, Congress adjourned before work could be completed on this bill. Inhofe will work to pass this bill in 2017.

In March, the deputy secretary of the VA, Mr. Sloan Gibson, came to Oklahoma to announce the replacement of the director of Oklahoma City's VA Health Care System. The new director, Wade Vlosich has made it his top priority to reform the culture at Oklahoma City from top to bottom, already making several staff changes that will ensure veterans in the area receive the proper, most efficient care. During that visit, Gibson also committed to providing a new director for the Muskogee VA Health Care System, Mark Morgan, who has also dedicated his agenda to improving the Muskogee VA for our veterans. These changes are positive steps in fixing the problems at our Oklahoma's VA facilities.



*Inhofe visits with veterans at the Muskogee VA clinic.*

## **Legislation to benefit our veterans**

In 2015, Inhofe signed a letter along with 51 senators to VA Secretary Bob McDonald conveying serious concerns regarding the VA's implementation of the Veterans Choice Program (Choice), which allows veterans to receive local care from physicians if the VA is unable to treat them within 40 miles of their home. On July 31, 2015, this change was signed into law in P.L. 114-41, which Inhofe supported. The 40-mile rule, however, is just one issue plaguing successful implementation of the Choice program. To address this and other concerns, Inhofe cosponsored S. 2646, the *Veterans Choice Improvement Act of 2016*, which would make the program permanent, ensure that the program allows veterans to receive private sector care whenever the VA cannot serve them, and ensure that participating doctors are promptly reimbursed for their services.

### **S. 2771 - Advancing Veterans' Access to Mental Health Services**

Many of our veterans come home with mental health issues stemming from the sacrifices they made in service to our nation. While our veterans are trying to seek help, many are faced with long waits and failure to get adequate treatment because of shortages within the VA. This legislation would allow the VA to hire individuals who hold doctoral degrees in mental health as Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors (LPMHC). The law currently requires the VA to hire mental health professionals that hold a master's degree, inadvertently preventing the hiring of individuals who earned a doctorate without obtaining a master's degree in the process. **S. 2772 was included as Section 613 of P.L. 114-315, which was signed into law on Dec. 16.**

### **S. 3021 - Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2016**

In March, Oklahoma's postsecondary career and technical education centers received notice from the government that Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits could no longer be used on courses that incorporate distance learning or "online" courses. As a result, many veterans were no longer able to pursue job training in the fields they had been studying.

In 2010, Congress passed the Veteran’s Educational Assistance Improvements Act, which authorized veterans to use their GI bill education benefits at CTEs, but a mistake in legislation blocked the benefits from being used on any program that includes an online or distance learning component. After hearing from many veterans scrambling to find a path forward, Inhofe introduced S. 3021, the *Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2016*, to ensure that GI Bill benefits can be used at accredited CTEs that choose to incorporate distance learning in their programs.

**S. 3021 passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent on Dec. 10; however, the House adjourned before it was able to consider the legislation. Inhofe will work to complete this bill in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.**



*Inhofe attends Veterans Task Force meeting in Oklahoma City.*

## **Improving Prosthetic Care Outcomes for Veterans**

In 2015, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) deployed advanced, proven lower limb prosthetic digital health technology to provide real-world data documenting activity in the community for veterans with lower limb prostheses. By documenting how patients with limb loss function with their prosthetic devices, this digital health technology offers new opportunities to prosthetic outcomes, increase activity and improve the quality of life for those who have lost limbs. Currently DOD has not provided this technology to service members who have lost lower limbs or to veterans who receive prosthetic care from DOD. **Inhofe authored an amendment that was included on page 202 on the report to accompany P.L. 114-255** that encourages DOD to utilize technology that captures real-world activity data for amputees to improve prosthetic outcomes for service members and veterans.



*“For decades, Sen. Inhofe has been at the forefront of ensuring the highest possible levels of care for injured military service personnel in need of prosthetic care. This provision in the NDAA will deploy mobile health technology to provide greater visibility into the effectiveness of advanced rehabilitative technologies, as well as also helping to improve transitions from military medicine to the VA through consistent collection of patient outcomes data.”*

**– Doug McCormack, Chairman, Modus Health**

## Gold Star Families Voices Act

Inhofe voted for final passage of the *Gold Star Families Voices Act*, which became P.L. 114-246, on Nov. 15. The law authorizes the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) to collect audio and video recordings of biographical histories by immediate family members of service members who died as a result of their wartime service or became missing in action. It will allow the legacies of our service members who made the ultimate sacrifice to be remembered and ensure that their lives are memorialized for generations to come.

## S. 1004 – Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act

Inhofe cosponsored the *Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act* which became P.L. 114-240 on Oct. 7. The law directs the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of silence on Veterans Day, beginning at 3:11 p.m., in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the nation.

## S. 1982 – Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act

Inhofe supported the *Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015*, which became P.L. 114-336 on Oct. 7. The law authorizes a Wall of Remembrance at the DC site of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The wall shall include a list of names of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in the Korean War, as determined by the DOD.

## INHOFE AUTHORED OP-EDS

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### **IRRIGATION LEADER: Reforming the Endangered Species Act on Jan. 1**

*“Over 40 years ago, the well-intentioned Endangered Species Act (ESA) was signed into law to provide for the conservation of species and the ecosystems on which these species depend. Since then, the ESA has been hijacked by environmentalists intent on abusing this legislation to pursue their own agendas.”*

### **TULSA WORLD: Top ten reasons Obama and liberals were hit hard by omnibus funding bill on Jan. 2**

*“While I can criticize both the process and part of the content of the omnibus bill, I want to point out 10 victories that the public needs to be aware of. First, it’s important to note that for the first time in six years, the Senate, under a new Republican majority, and the House passed all 12 annual appropriations out of their committees. When it came time for Senate floor consideration, Democrats blocked the appropriations and forced an omnibus spending bill.”*

### **WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Why the Paris Climate Agreement will fail on Jan. 25**

*“Premised on a heavy dose of international peer pressure, the final Paris Agreement reached last December includes a combination of both binding and non-binding provisions. The agreement is meant to shame countries into complying with self-proscribed greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. While the Obama administration continues to insist that this time around, the climate agreement really is historic, the reality is that the final Paris agreement will be no more significant to the United States than was the Kyoto Protocol.”*

### **THE OKLAHOMAN: Sens. Inhofe and Lankford: Many reasons not to take up Supreme Court nominee on March 27**

*“The loss of Justice Antonin Scalia presents President Obama with a chance to change the balance of the Supreme Court for a generation. It is imperative that the Senate follow precedent and not confirm any nominee this election year, even Judge Merrick Garland. Oklahomans owe a debt of gratitude to Judge Garland who, while at the Department of Justice, oversaw the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh, bringing justice for all of us. For this we thank him.”*

### **TULSA WORLD: Obama EPA budget shows misplaced climate change priorities on April 20**

*“The President is seeking more than \$50 million just to implement the Clean Power Plan – even though EPA has even testified before this committee they have done no modeling whether the rule would have any impact on global temperature change, and the Supreme Court has stayed it from going into effect because of ongoing litigation which could well last into 2018.”*

### **NY POST: NY Post: Earth Day marks the composting of the global climate deal on April 21**

*“Climate diplomats have paraded December’s Paris Agreement as historic. But as representatives gather in New York Friday to sign the deal, they should already know: The deal is nothing but a stack of empty promises. In order for the agreement to take legal effect, 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of global greenhouse-gas emissions have to sign it. As the Obama administration has promised, the United States will inevitably sign the agreement on Friday despite the reality that my country will fall well short of President Obama’s promise.”*

### **THE DAILY SIGNAL: Obama’s Wrong: Climate Change Is Not Our Biggest Threat on April 22**

*“Throughout President Obama’s time in office, he and his cabinet officials have made claims that climate change is the greatest threat we face. Last year, Vox pressed the president on the matter, asking if he truly believes it is a greater threat than even terrorism. He responded by saying “absolutely,” and his press secretary Josh Earnest reaffirmed a day later saying unapologetically, “the threat of climate change is greater than the threat of terrorism.”*

### **NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES’S BLOG, CITIES SPEAK: Infrastructure Is the Economic Foundation of Our Communities and Country on May 18**

*“The theme for Infrastructure Week 2016 is “Infrastructure Matters,” and as chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, this is a motto I have worked to consistently uphold in the committee’s legislative priorities. Last*

year, the president signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, a law which addresses our nation's aging transportation infrastructure. This year, my committee continues our commitment to addressing the infrastructure needs of the nation with the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 (S. 2848)."

### **AOPA: Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 'Single Most Important' GA Bill Sen. Jim Inhofe Pushes for Medical Reform on June 14**

*"Because of the support of the entire general aviation community, the legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent just before Christmas. S.571 was also included in the Senate's FAA reauthorization bill and the Senate's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which have both passed the Senate."*

### **TULSA WORLD: U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe: Keep Our Communities Safe Act would protect public from criminal illegal aliens on June 22**

*"Tulsa County commissioners on Monday voted to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain their inmates and train local deputies to refer threats or violent criminals to federal authorities. Entering into a memorandum of understanding has been a routine procedure until last week when it was temporarily delayed due to protests by illegal immigrant activists — the same type of activists you see across the country pushing sanctuary policies that protect criminal aliens and allow them to continue committing crimes against our citizens."*

### **WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Sens. Inhofe, Vitter, Capito, Crapo and Rounds: GOP-led Congress achieves historic regulatory reform of broken environmental law on June 22**

*"Regulatory reform has been a widely-discussed solution in Washington to cut bureaucratic red tape and boost our economy. In a Republican-led Congress, we achieved it. After years of hard work and negotiations, the passage of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act marks the first time in more than a quarter of a century that Congress has sent reform of a major environmental law to the president's desk."*

### **U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT: Sens. Inhofe, Whitehouse, Crapo and Booker: The future of nuclear energy in the U.S. is bright. On July 11**

*"There has been a groundswell of activity and investment in recent years surrounding advanced nuclear reactors. A dynamic group of nuclear engineers and scientists are chasing the future — and racing against China and Russia — to develop innovative reactor designs. These technologies hold enormous promise to provide clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy, not just for our country, but for the world. These innovators have a vision for the future, and they charge ahead backed by more than \$1 billion in private capital. The future of nuclear energy is bright."*

### **AIRVENTURE TODAY: Third Class Medical Reform on July 28**

*"Congratulations! Thanks to the strong and consistent advocacy by the general aviation community, the President has signed into law the third-class medical reform we have all been waiting for. These reforms are the foundation of the bipartisan Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 (S. 571), which has passed the Senate three times since last December, and I am immensely pleased to see them finally enacted."*

### **EDMOND SUN: Funding the Federal Government the Right Way on Aug. 3**

*"When Republicans regained the majority in the Senate, we promised to restore regular order. This began with passing a budget resolution, setting Congress's funding priorities to include defunding ObamaCare, redirecting priorities to national defense and infrastructure, and balancing the budget over the next 10 years without raising taxes."*

### **ENO TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY: Congress Did Not Intend Greenhouse Gases to Be Measured for Highway Performance on Aug. 15**

*"My committee, the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, not only writes and enacts laws to provide direction for programs within our jurisdiction; it is also our job to oversee implementation of laws by federal agencies. Currently two laws are undergoing this process: The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act (P.L. 112-141), enacted with strong bipartisan support in 2012, as well as the more recent Fixing American's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94), enacted last December."*

## **HUFFINGTON POST: My Commitment to Flint and All Communities Facing a Water Infrastructure Crisis on Sept. 23**

*“When the national press opened the eyes of America to the lead water contamination crisis affecting Flint, Michigan, a city of roughly 100,000 people, I told my staff it was time to get to work to see what went wrong and what could be done. In the days following the resignation of EPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman, I joined Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) in sending a letter to EPA Adm. Gina McCarthy asking for the agency to explain in detail what they knew and when. I then got to work with Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) on a legislative solution to address the issue not only in Flint, but across the nation, of aging water infrastructure.”*

## **SEAPORT MAGAZINE: Sens. Inhofe and Boxer: Modernizing America's Ports for the Next Generation**

*“America’s ports are an essential part of our nation’s economy, are necessary for maintaining a competitive edge in the global marketplace, and help create jobs. Ports are the frontline of international commerce, moving goods from the heartland of America to foreign destinations and facilitating the import of products for consumption and manufacturing.”*

## **ENID NEWS: Vance Air Force Base is Here to Stay on Oct. 5**

*“A “crisis” – this is what Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein has termed the pilot shortage facing the Air Force. By the end of this year, the service is expected to have a shortfall of more than 700 fighter pilots, a number that will grow to 1,000 by 2022 if the next administration does not change course on defense budget and force structure cuts.”*

## **THE OKLAHOMAN: Protecting Farmers on Oct. 10**

*“Some people think the “Right to Farm” vote on November’s ballot is unnecessary, but they don’t see what I’ve seen in my years of public service. The goal of liberal activists is to intimidate states in how they regulate. We’re seeing this with the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan, which consists of two carbon mandates — written primarily by activist groups — that would attempt to strong-arm states to re-engineer their utility grids and reassess how they regulate local energy resources. Then there is the WOTUS rule, in which the administration inappropriately collaborated with radical environmentalists in an unprecedented federal land grab. These activists won’t stop there.”*

## **ELK CITY DAILY: Republicans Keep Promise to make 114th Congress productive on Oct. 19**

*“Republicans have been focused on restoring transparency and regular order in the 114th Congress. Despite having a Democratic White House, we’ve overcome many odds and moved forward many priorities that you have been contacting me about over the years.”*

## **ELK CITY DAILY: Protecting Oklahoma's Farmers and Ranchers from Federal Overregulation on Nov. 2**

*“In a major win for the agriculture community, the federal courts recently struck an Obama administration rule that would have made buying fertilizer even harder than it already is. The rule, written by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), was a unilateral reinterpretation of existing rules and would have applied strict federal regulations for fertilizer storage to all agriculture retailers – and they did this without any direction from Congress. Because the courts ruled correctly on this issue, the rules did not go into effect on Oct. 1 as scheduled.”*

## **WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Prioritizing the environment and jobs with Pruitt at the helm of EPA on Dec. 21**

*It is time for change at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Over the past seven years, the nation has endured a rogue agency distracted from its core functions. The result has been regulatory uncertainty in the form of federal mandates crafted by unelected bureaucrats. This has crippled our economic growth and opportunity. This call for change at the EPA is not an attack on the environment, but rather a conscious decision to move away from the unlawful means used by the Obama administration to implement policies rejected by Congress and the American people.*

# ONLINE MEDIA

**Senator Jim Inhofe**  
November 3, 2016 at 5:43pm ·

Spent just 1 hour in Washington, D.C. today, taking my turn to gavel the Senate into a pro forma session to prevent President Obama from making a recess appointment to the Supreme Court. The Senate's constitutional role of 'advice and consent' includes the ability to choose the right time and determine if the nominee is the right person. With a SCOTUS seat becoming vacant in a presidential election year, the American people have a chance to vote in November and decide the future direction of the Court.

Here is a little more information how pro forma works:  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/aug/29/obama-supreme-court-recess-appointment-thwarted-by/>



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207 posts  
1777 new page likes  
23,150,000 post reach



**youtube.com/jiminhofepressoffice**  
Videos Uploaded: 68  
Views: 20,813  
Watch Time: 63,017 minutes



**Jim Inhofe** ✓  
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Joined July 2007

**twitter.com/jiminhofe**  
305 Tweets  
1,194,000 impressions  
1982 retweets  
>5k new followers



**Inhofe Press Office** ✓  
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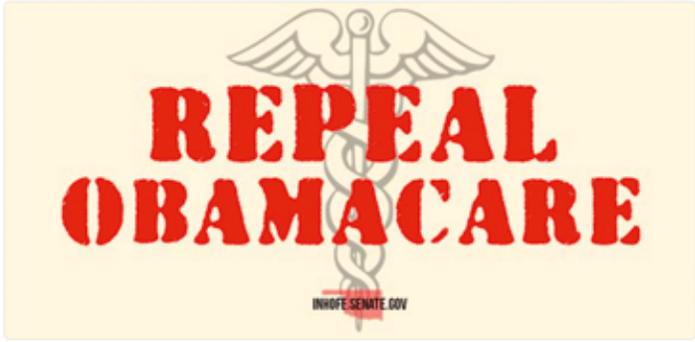
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86 tweets  
 1,309,000 impressions  
 1154 retweets  
 >2k new followers



**Inhofe Press Office** ✓  
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Six years later, health care costs have skyrocketed and millions have lost access to their doctors. [#RepealObamacare](#)



RETWEETS 39 LIKES 55

12:07 PM - 23 Mar 2016

34 39 55



**Jim Inhofe** ✓ @JimInhofe · 9 Mar 2016

Army Gen. Joseph Votel just told SASC that Iran has been "more aggressive" since President Obama's nuclear deal. [#baddeal](#)

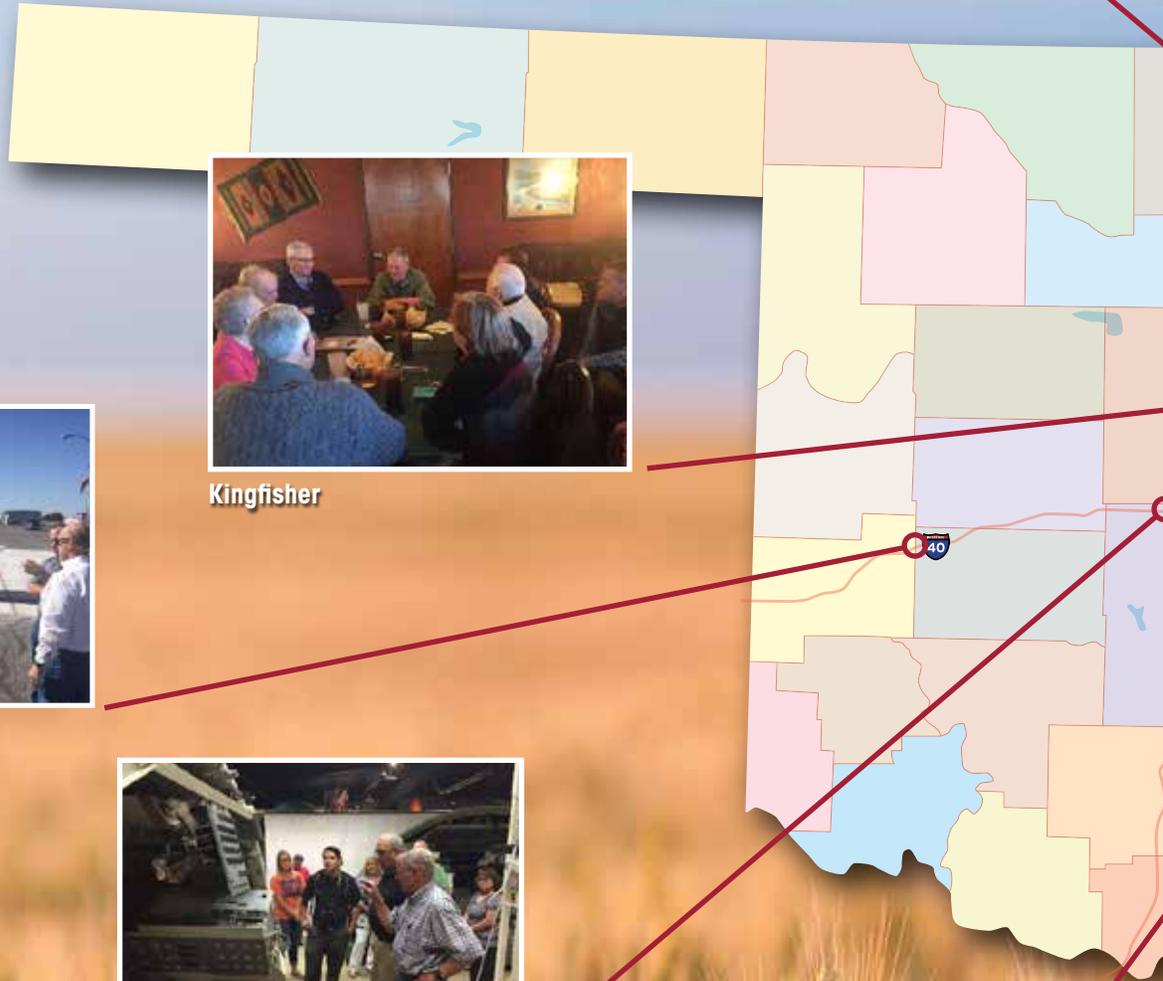
2 62 5

# TOWNS VISITED

In 2016, Senator Jim Inhofe made 82 visits to towns across Oklahoma



Enid



Kingfisher



Elk City



Weatherford



Norman



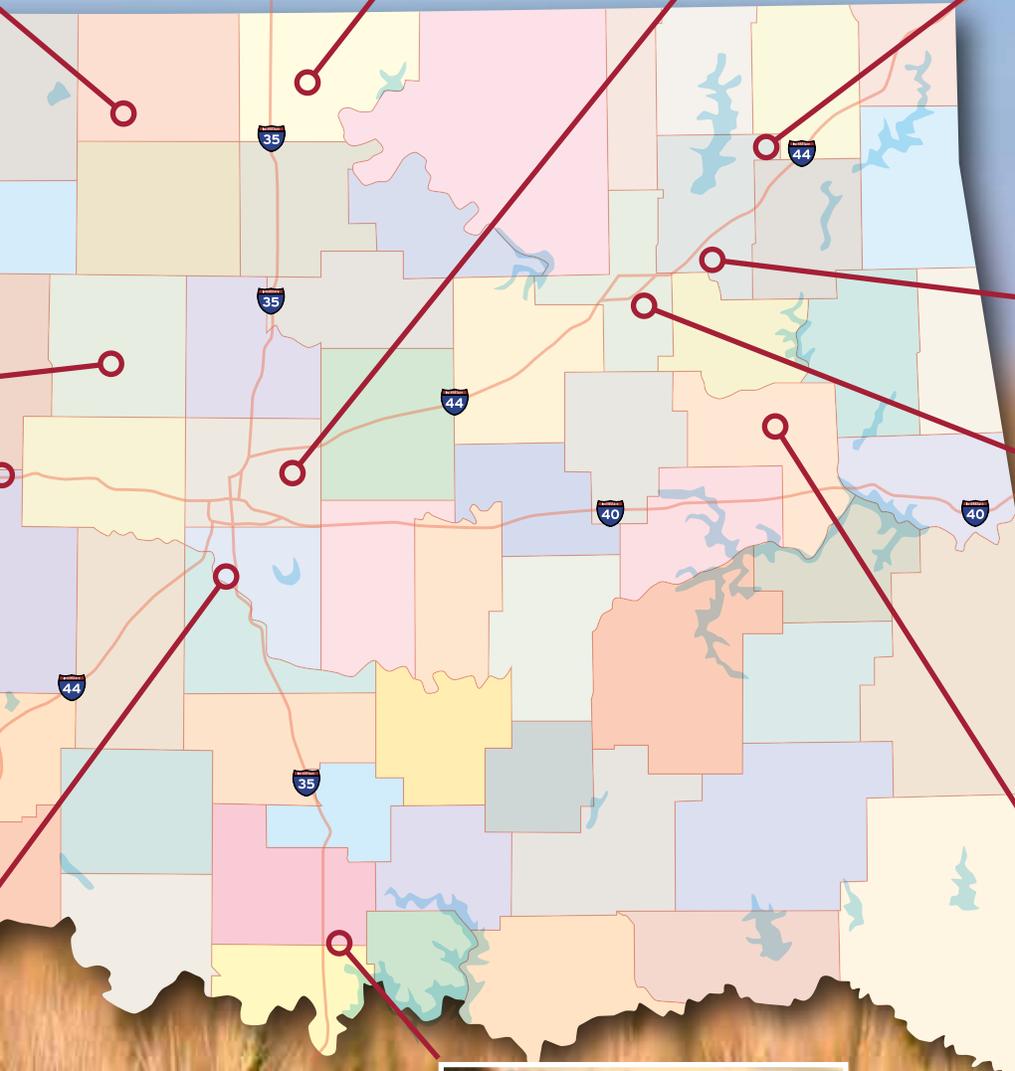
Ponca City



Choctaw



Claremore



Port of Catoosa



Owasso



Ardmore



Muskogee





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