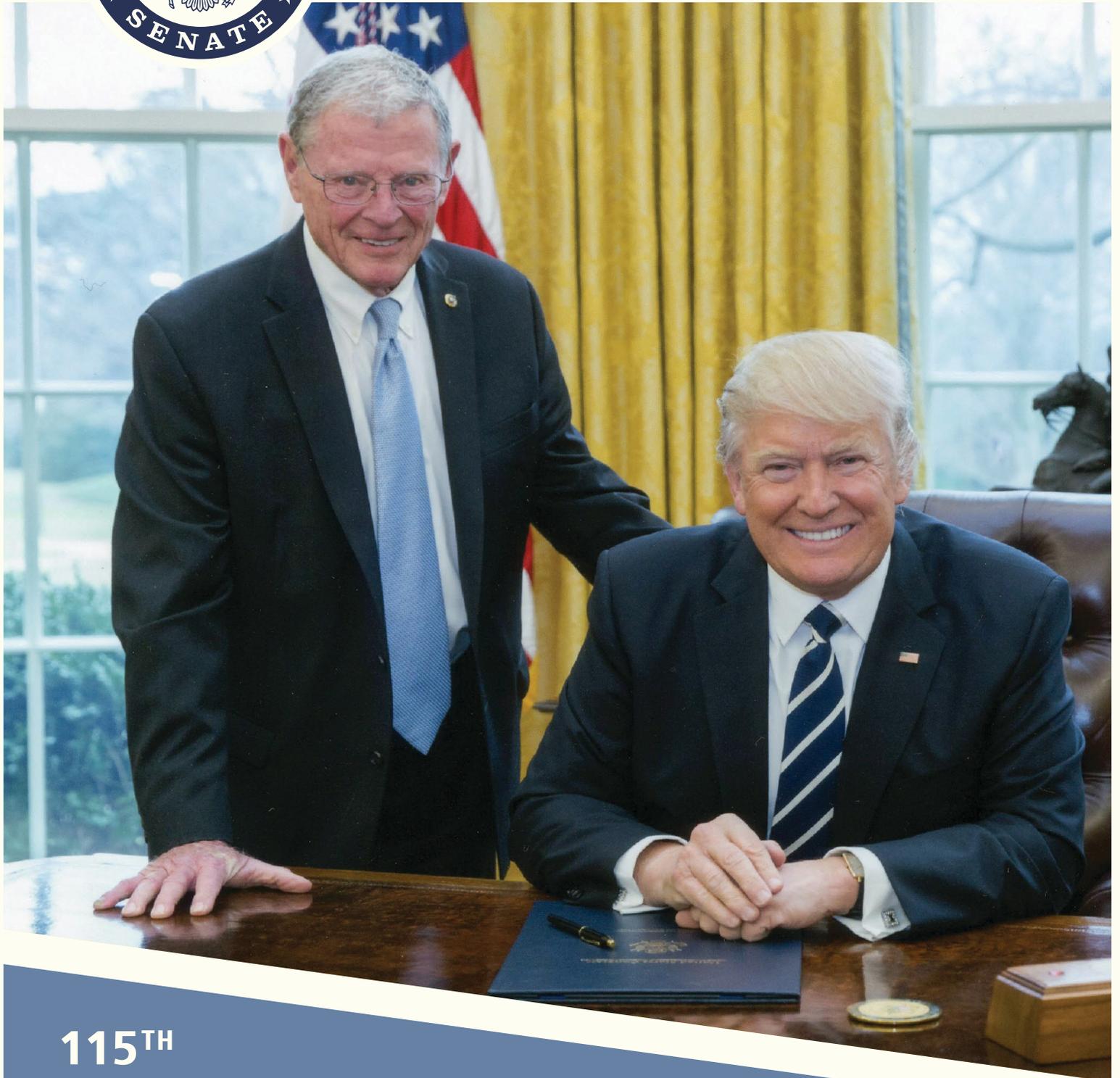


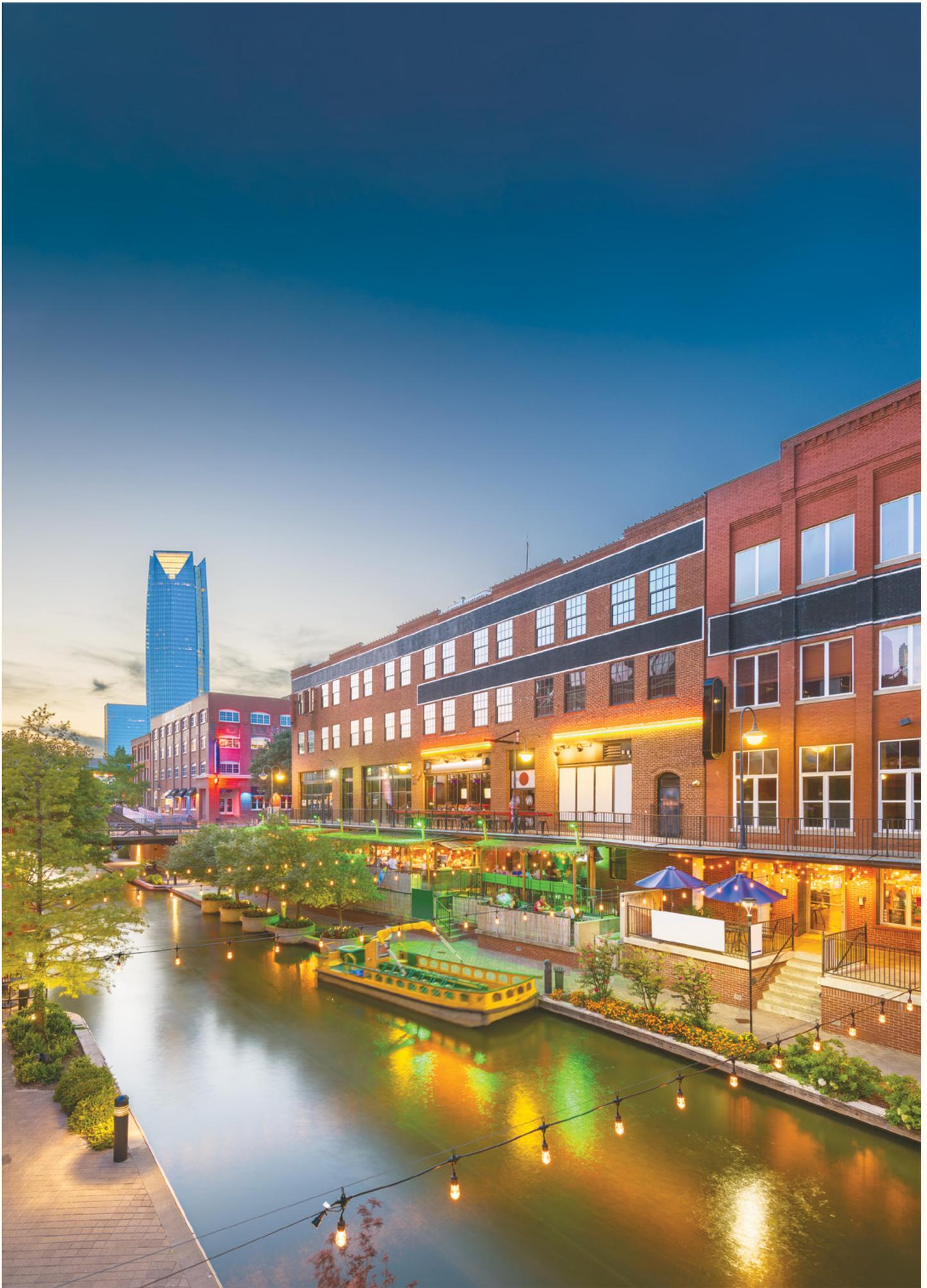


JAMES M. INHOFE

U.S. SENATOR FOR OKLAHOMA



**115TH
CONGRESS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
REPORT**



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– LOCATIONS –



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From the Desk of U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe

Dear Friends,

The 115th Congress was one for the record books, one highlighted by a unified Republican government. Together, we were successful at undoing the years of job killing regulation and bureaucratic overreach of the Obama administration. After President Trump signed my legislation to repeal an Obama-era rule that put American oil and gas companies at a disadvantage to their international competitors, we overturned hundreds more harmful policies through the *Congressional Review Act* and executive orders to get our economy going again.

Last Congress was also notable for passing tax relief that let hardworking Oklahomans keep more of their tax dollars—not the federal government. The effects on the economy were immediate and we are currently seeing the best economy in decades. To date, the economic growth under President Trump has led to nearly 40,000 jobs being created in Oklahoma, with over five million across the country.

Under the Obama Administration, we saw a dramatic, dangerous decline the funding and readiness of our armed forces. As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I worked hard to restore funding and rebuild our readiness. Additionally, we delivered on our annual commitment to the military by passing on-time authorization bills to fund the military and set policy.

This report highlights some of the accomplishments over the past two years on behalf of Oklahomans. I hope you will find it informative. Additionally, many of my legislative initiatives throughout my career have come from Oklahomans who have shared with me stories about fighting bureaucratic red tape and the federal government. I urge you to contact my office if I can be of assistance to you or your family.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- ▶ **Most Conservative U.S. Senator of the 115th Congress, GovTrack**
- ▶ The Paul Weyrich Enduring Impact Award
- ▶ Distinguished Christian Statesman
- ▶ U.S. Army, “Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service”
- ▶ National Taxpayers Union, “Taxpayer’s Friend”
- ▶ American Farm Bureau, “Distinguished Service Award”
- ▶ National Defense Industrial Association, “Dwight D. Eisenhower Award”
- ▶ Family Research Council, “True Blue Award”
- ▶ National Association of Clean Water Agencies, “National Environmental Achievement Award”
- ▶ American Public Power Association, “Public Service Award”
- ▶ The Association of Independent Research Institutes and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation “2017 AIRI Legislative Champion Award”
- ▶ Humane Society “Legislative Leader”
- ▶ National Association of Manufacturers “Manufacturing Legislative Excellence Award”
- ▶ American Conservative Union “Award for Conservative Excellence”
- ▶ American Traffic Safety Services Association “Roadway Safety Champion Award”
- ▶ Southwest Airlines Pilots’ Association (SWAPA) “Nosecone Award”
- ▶ The Endowment for Middle East Truth “Speaker of the Truth Award”
- ▶ Foundry Society “Metalcasting Eagle Award”
- ▶ Nation Retail Federation, “2018 Hero of Main Street”
- ▶ National Association of Development Organizations, “2018 Congressional Partnership Award”
- ▶ America Car Rental Association, “ACRA Legislator of the Year”
- ▶ International Association of Drilling Contractors, “Legislator Award”
- ▶ U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Spirit of Enterprise Award”
- ▶ Aeronautical Repair Station Association, “2018 Legislative Leadership Award”
- ▶ National Federation of Independent Business, “Guardian of Small Business Award”
- ▶ National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, “Distinguished Service Award”

Most Conservative Senator

Inhofe was named the most conservative member of the United States Senate by GovTrack for the 115th Congress. GovTrack studies legislative patterns to establish their “Ideology Score” that identifies how liberal or conservative a senator is. Inhofe’s legislative patterns yielded him the designation as the most conservative senator. In a time when partisanship can be synonymous with gridlock, Inhofe stands out as a leader who exemplifies he can be a principled conservative while also being a true advocate for Oklahomans.

“I’m honored to be recognized as the most conservative member of the Senate,” Inhofe said. “My conservative principles of smaller government, lower taxes, deregulation, and a strong national defense have not only seen economic success, but have also shown positive legislative results for Oklahomans. I look forward to continuing to work with President Trump to enact the Republican agenda and working tirelessly for Oklahoma.”

ADOPTION

Inhofe is a committed supporter and advocate for adoption and those seeking to adopt. In 2017 and 2018, Inhofe served on Congress's bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption, as he has for many years, assisting families that have opened their hearts and homes to adoption and the foster care system.

In 2017, Inhofe welcomed Poteau residents Jody and Jeannie Thompson and their family to Washington as they were honored with the “Angels in Adoption” award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. Jody Thompson, an officer in the Poteau Police Department wasn't even on duty when he responded to a call of child abuse in 2015. Jody, a 16-year veteran of the force and former investigator for the District Attorney's office, called John's abuse “the worst thing” he had ever seen.

Jody and Jeannie adopted John that year, where he joined their three children, but the Thompson's adoption story wasn't done yet. Later that year, the Thompsons were also able to adopt John's biological sister, Paizley, growing their family to seven. Their remarkable story shows the blessings and joy of providing for those most in need of a family.

“Their remarkable story shows the blessings and joy of providing for those most in need of a family.”



Inhofe meets with Thompson Family

During the 115th Congress, Inhofe cosponsored the following bills that promote adoption:

- ▶ **S. 876- Tribal Adoption Parity Act:** Allows Indian tribal governments to determine whether a child has special needs for the purposes of the adoption tax credit.
- ▶ **S. 937- Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2017:** Makes the tax credit for adoption expenses refundable.
- ▶ **S. 1178- Vulnerable Children and Families Act of 2017:** Redesignates the Office of Children’s issues of Department of State as the Office of Vulnerable Children and Family Security (VCFS). It would ensure implementation of child welfare laws and policies in foreign countries and would be the lead authority for representing the U.S. regarding intercountry adoptions.
- ▶ **S. RES. 331 (2017) and S.RES.704 (2018)-** resolutions expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children



Inhofe meets with Belt Family

In 2018, Inhofe recognized McAlester residents Lloyd and Kelli Belt with the “Angels in Adoption” award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption as well. The Belt family was chosen for their courageous adoption journey involving an Ethiopian-born girl, Addi May. The Belt’s began their adoption process in 2011, but due to the complicated and political barriers to intercountry adoption, were not able to bring her home until 2017.

Inhofe was made aware of the Belt’s adoption difficulties in 2016, after the Ethiopian government stopped all international adoptions, including those of 160 American families who had already been legally matched with Ethiopian kids. Senator Inhofe personally worked with the Ethiopian Prime Minister to ensure matched American families, including the Belts, completed their adoption proceedings. Adoption, especially in Ethiopia, is a special joy for Inhofe. As the grandfather of an adopted Ethiopian child, Inhofe has championed for years a stronger relationship with countries in Africa, including Ethiopia.

AGRICULTURE

Sen. Inhofe has worked tirelessly on behalf of Oklahoma’s farming and ranching community.

Accordingly, the American Farm Bureau recognized Inhofe with their highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. First awarded in 1928, the Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who have devoted their careers to serving the national interest of American agriculture. Inhofe’s commitment to protecting landowners’ property rights, preserving our natural resources and reining in federal regulatory overreach has brought relief to farmers and ranchers across our nation.

“He’s a guy you want on your side,” Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel said of Inhofe. “There is no better bulldog, there is no better warrior fighting for your issues, and we are blessed that most of the time he and Farm Bureau are on the very same side.”

In 2018, Congress enacted a new Farm Bill that renews farm, crop insurance, and conservation programs important to Oklahomans across the State for five years. He has also supported farmers affected by devastating wildfires, promoted agriculture funding and enhanced Oklahoma’s agriculture research.

2018 Farm Bill

The 2018 Farm Bill was a win for farmers, ranchers and the American taxpayer. It ensures producers in Oklahoma and across the country have flexibility in crop programs and certainty for future seasons, while supporting critical investments in agriculture research and land-grant schools, like Oklahoma State University and Langston University. Furthermore, this legislation includes numerous provisions authored by Inhofe:

- ▶ **Grazing on CRP Lands** – in 2017, Inhofe introduced the *Wildfire Regulatory Relief Act*, to improve federal wildfire disaster response for agriculture communities after seeing the damage firsthand. In particular, this bill would make it easier to graze cattle on CRP land after a devastating wildfire. It was enacted as Section 2206 of Public Law 115-334.
- ▶ **Empowering the Next Generation of Farmers** – in 2017, Inhofe introduced the *Farmers of Tomorrow Act*, to ensure young and beginning farmers have access to much-needed capital necessary to start a life in farming. The future of agriculture in our nation depends on the next generation being able to purchase land, equipment, cattle and seed. Because of this bill, more young people will be on firmer foundation when they start a career in agriculture. It was enacted as Section 5101 of Public Law 115-334.
- ▶ **Enabling disaster recovery** – in 2017, Inhofe cosponsored legislation that would cut bureaucratic red tape preventing USDA from getting post-disaster aid into the hands of farmers and ranchers as fast as possible. As many Oklahomans know, it is impossible to restart ranching operations without first replacing fence lines destroyed by wildfires. This legislation directs USDA to provide ranchers partial payments as soon as possible after a disaster for the purpose of rebuilding fence lines immediately. Instead of this aid sitting idle in Washington waiting for bureaucrats to fill out paperwork—this aid can now be put to work right away. It was enacted as Section 2403 of Public Law 115-334.



Oklahoma wins in the Farm Bill:

- ▶ **Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program** – Oklahoma is home to over 2,100 flood control dams protecting 1,400 bridges and 21,000 farms and ranches across the state. Inhofe fully funded the dams to ensure the safety and security of Oklahomans and their property for decades to come. It was enacted as Section 2401 of Public Law 115-334.
- ▶ **Oklahoma State University and Langston University** – Oklahoma’s two land-grant universities will be able to acquire new research equipment and upgrade agriculture facilities as a result of the 2018 Farm Bill. Investing in land-grant schools ensures next generation farmers and ranchers, agriculture science and agriculture business students have access to state-of-the-art equipment and research labs to research and development new science and farming techniques needed in the 21st Century. It was enacted as Section 7127 of Public Law 115-334.

“Ranchers in Western Oklahoma were severely impacted by the wildfires earlier this year,” said Weston Givens, President of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association. “Senator Inhofe worked immediately to provide information and resources to individuals and communities that needed to rebuild. As we enter wildfire season, rather than accepting the red tape and hurdles our members faced going through the disaster relief process—Senator Inhofe is taking action to improve the process for rural communities in Oklahoma and across the country. We appreciate his continued leadership on these efforts.”



Agriculture Research Funding

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture at USDA funds advanced research, education and public outreach projects at land-grant universities across the nation. Oklahoma State University and Langston University successfully compete each year to receive grant funding used to provide the necessary resources to conduct research needed to improve our agricultural capabilities, mitigate crop diseases and improve food safety and water quality. This Congress, Inhofe supported legislation that fully funded competitive agriculture research grants. These grants are directly responsible for the development of technology and methods integral to improving the farming process to feed the world’s growing population – such as the development of wheat varieties suited to Oklahoma’s weather conditions and testing the detection and control of food-borne pathogens.

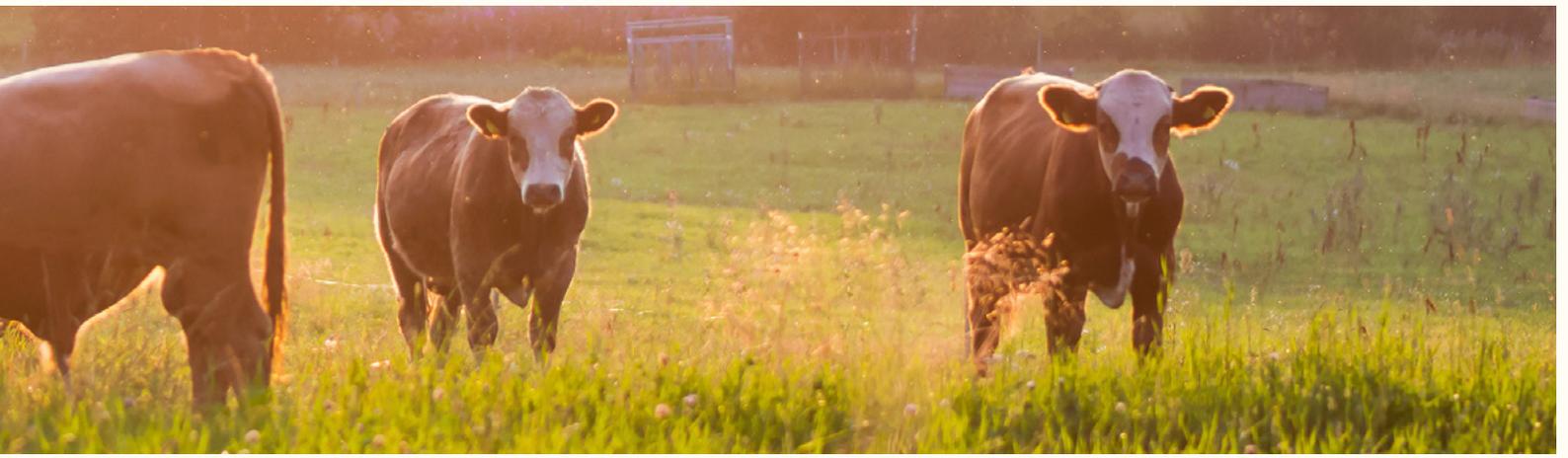
Agriculture Research Service Centers

Oklahoma is home to three Agriculture Research Service Center with more than 100 employees in El Reno, Stillwater and Woodward. The research conducted at these centers ranges from improving the efficiency and sustainability of livestock grazing methods in the Southern Plains landscape to developing engineering tools for better water management systems. These three centers ensure Oklahoma agricultural producers will be better equipped to produce, process, and protect the American recourses that feed and clothe the world of tomorrow. Inhofe worked with the whole Oklahoma delegation to highlight the value of the research efforts at all three centers to Oklahoma producers in three separate letters to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Inhofe was able to secure funding to ensure all three centers would remain open and continue to serve Oklahoma’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

Food Stamp Entitlement Reform

Inhofe has consistently advocated for the reform of means-tested programs like “food stamps,” or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to ensure they are provide for those who truly need them and are facing economic difficulty. Because of President Trump, the economy has turned around—making it easier to get people from welfare to work. Deregulation, tax cuts and other pro-growth policies enacted by Congress and President Trump have led to fewer Americans needing to rely on programs like SNAP. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), since President Trump took office, more than four million fewer Americans are in need of SNAP benefits, saving more than \$5 billion in annual costs since 2016.

During the 115th Congress, Inhofe introduced and coauthored a number of policy proposals intended to protect SNAP benefits for those who need it while limiting misuse and inefficiency of the program. Inhofe proposed two amendments to the Farm Bill that would have saved taxpayer money and increased accountability, all while ensuring the services were there for those who needed them.



“One of the greatest challenges faced by young people who want to pursue a career in farming is the sheer cost of getting started” said Roy Lee Lindsey, Oklahoma Pork Council Executive Director. “Legislation like the FARMS Act and Farmers of Tomorrow Act are important tools to help a beginning farmer secure the necessary funding to launch a rewarding career in providing food for the world. We appreciate Senator Inhofe providing the leadership to introduce these two important pieces of legislation.”

First, Inhofe proposed converting SNAP into a responsible, cost-effective block grant program run by individual states. The proposal would also require recipients to meet work requirements, pass drug tests and demonstrate proof of citizenship or legal residency. Inhofe’s amendment would have saved taxpayers over \$260 billion over ten years and provided states increased flexibility to operate this program as states desire.

Inhofe’s second SNAP related amendment would have eliminated SNAP’s Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) loophole. Under current law, BBCE allows individuals to receive SNAP benefits if they are eligible for or receiving either cash or non-cash benefits from other low-income assistance programs, like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Social Security Insurance (SSI) or state-run General Assistance (GA). The eligibility requirements for means-tested programs vary considerably, but the BBCE loophole allows many individuals not necessarily in need to receive SNAP benefits they would otherwise not be eligible. This amendment would have resulted in \$4 billion in savings over ten years.

Regarding the 2018 Farm Bill

“The Oklahoma Farm Bureau is grateful for Sen. Inhofe’s work on the 2018 Farm Bill,” said Rodd Moesel, President of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. “The farm bill is a critical piece of legislation that ensures Oklahoma farmers and ranchers can continue to produce food and fiber for the nation with confidence. When it comes to Sen. Inhofe, there is no better warrior fighting for your issues, and we are blessed to have him advocating for our priorities in Congress.”

“Oklahoma State University is incredibly appreciative of Sen. Inhofe’s contribution to the 2018 Farm Bill, strengthening land grant universities like our own,” said Thomas Coon, Vice President, Dean and Director of the Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. “Passing this bill through the Senate means results for producers and greater certainty about risk management tools in uncertain times. With renewed support for extension and research, we are optimistic towards the future of our great university and the state of Oklahoma.”



ARMED SERVICES

National Defense Authorization Act

This year, Congress continued the bipartisan tradition of supporting our service members, veterans and military families by passing the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* for the 56th consecutive year. As chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Inhofe fought to ensure the 2018 legislation made meaningful strides in addressing critical readiness shortfalls that starved our military by prioritizing acquisition reform, maintenance and modernization, and authorizing the necessary funding for our national security.

As our nation is in the most threatened position to date, this year's NDAA is an important legislative achievement that protects American families by increasing missile defense to counter threats from North Korea, supports the Ukrainian military's efforts to curb Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, fully resources the fight against ISIS and Islamic extremism and increases end strength to address threats around the globe. Inhofe led the efforts to include numerous provisions to support military facilities in Oklahoma.

Prohibition on a Base Realignment and Closure Round (BRAC)

Inhofe led the efforts to reject an amendment to the NDAA that would have authorized a new BRAC round. He successfully argued that previous BRAC commissions have had dramatic inconsistencies between expected and actual costs. At a time when we are rebuilding our military, we cannot conduct a BRAC that would increase cost and decrease capacity.

FY18 NDAA highlights

- ▶ Pay raise for troops
- ▶ Prohibits a BRAC
- ▶ Authorizes funding for Altus AFB Fire Station
- ▶ Increase in missile defense funding to counter threat from North Korea
- ▶ Authorizes lethal aid to Ukraine to curb Russian aggression



Inhofe Op-ed in The Washington Times: The Wrong Time to Close Bases

As Americans, we are facing a grave threat — one that goes beyond North Korea’s missile tests, Russian aggression in Eastern Europe and the rise of ISIS. Despite these dangerous and challenging national security threats, the readiness crisis is the most profound threat facing our nation today. Our armed forces are smaller than the days of the “hollow force” of the 1970s, and readiness, in the form of personnel, training and equipment, have been degraded to the breaking point. All the while, we have witnessed an uptick in training and operational accidents across the armed forces.

While the risks posed by the readiness crisis are significant, Congress is already taking steps to correct the shortfalls. This week, the Senate will consider the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)*, legislation that will go a long way to closing the readiness gap. Every amendment considered for the NDAA this year should focus on increasing readiness across the services. We owe it to our troops and our nation — nothing less is acceptable.

That’s why it is disappointing — and dangerous — to consider an amendment that would authorize a base realignment and closure round, better known as BRAC. I, along with many of my colleagues, successfully ensured during the Senate Armed Services Committee’s consideration of the NDAA that it included a provision prohibiting a BRAC round.

Unfortunately, an amendment is pending that would enable a new BRAC round in 2019 and, at the same time, remove the nonpartisan commission that allows both local defense communities and Congress input into the BRAC process.

The Pentagon claims that a BRAC round would save money and would allow the military to reinvest that money into critical readiness shortfalls. Before the most recent BRAC round in 2005, we heard these same arguments from the Pentagon — that a BRAC would save money, and would allow the military to increase efficiency. With 22 major base closings and 33 major realignments, the 2005 BRAC round was predicted to save \$35.6 billion over 20 years with costs of \$21 billion.

The reality was far different — the 2005 BRAC round cost roughly \$35.1 billion and is only expected to save \$9.9 billion over 20 years. Clearly, base closure rounds cost the American taxpayers an exorbitant amount of money upfront and take years to recoup the initial investment. Readiness can’t wait, and our enemies around the world won’t, either.

With the history of previous BRAC Commissions’ inconsistencies between expected and actual costs, there is no certainty that any proposed base closures or realignments would be economically viable in such a critical time. We are in a point of uncertainty that makes it irresponsible to expend billions of dollars downsizing our armed services when we are currently facing some of the most volatile, unpredictable and dangerous military threats that America has ever seen.

We must also consider the possibility that we will soon require the capacity that is presently considered excess if the current military threats materialize in a manner that would encourage the expansion of our armed services. The high cost of a BRAC round would divert resources away from addressing immediate, tangible threats.

Just this month, North Korea tested what is believed to be a hydrogen bomb, its most powerful nuclear weapon tested to date, estimated to be nearly seven times as powerful as the bomb detonated over Hiroshima. This came on the heels of North Korea’s first successful intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests this summer. If fired on a standard trajectory, experts believe the ICBMs North Korea tested could have reached the United States. We must stay focused on countering this very real threat to our nation — not on shrinking the infrastructure that supports our nation’s defense.

A BRAC round now would also shortchange a response to immediate readiness needs. Over the last 90 days, we have witnessed a spike in accidents across the military services, especially in the form of naval and aviation mishaps. While these accidents are still under investigations to determine the cause, it is hard not to correlate them with a readiness decline. Our forces are smaller than ever before, our equipment is aging, and our base infrastructure requires critical maintenance and upgrades. Senior officers from across every branch of our military have testified before the Readiness Subcommittee, painting a sobering assessment — especially when considering the gravity of the threats we face around the world, and especially on the Korean peninsula. We should be allocating sufficient funding to ensure that our military has the training and resources they need to complete the mission — not directing resources to satisfying the steep up-front cost of a BRAC round.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in rejecting this amendment this week. However well-intentioned, now is not the time for a shortsighted BRAC round. In a time of dangerous uncertainty, the NDAA’s first priority must be to rebuild our force and improve readiness to combat threats from around the world.

Civilian Hiring

Inhofe authored language that expedites civilian hiring authority for depots, shipyards, plants and arsenals for two years, through fiscal year 2019, due to the Office of Personnel Management failure to implement the law requiring direct hiring authority in the previous NDAA. This provision will help maintain and grow the workforce at Tinker Air Force Base and the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. The provision was included as section 1102 of the 2018 NDAA.

The civilian workforce maintains aging equipment, adopts new technologies and is consistently recognized by industry as the benchmark of success. Because of its abilities, the workload demands continue to grow along with the need for higher levels of technological skill sets.

E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS)

Inhofe authored language to upgrade the fleet of E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to the new Block 40/45 configuration. AWACS mission has been in constant demand, supporting overseas contingency operations as well as supporting homeland defense. AWACS fleet, based entirely at Tinker Air Force Base, entered the service in the late 1970s and requires multiple upgrades to the avionics and mission control equipment in order to meet current and future threats. This critical program was included as part of section 4201 of the 2018 NDAA.

“The E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System, AWACS, has been on the front line defense of this Nation since the 1970’s—continues as critical to our security and requires significant updates to its aging on board computer systems... This AWACS upgrade, which is critically needed to maintain combat effectiveness, is installed by our highly professional and skilled aircraft mechanics and technicians here at Tinker Air Force Base. Senator Inhofe’s initiative to fully fund the E-3 Block 40/45 modification is critical to maintain our edge in military power.” – Randy Young, Director of Military Aviation and Aerospace for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

Paladin Integrated Management (PIM)

Inhofe authored language that ensures continued support for the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) upgrade to the M109A6 Paladin, the primary indirect fire weapons platform in the U.S. Army’s Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT). The PIM upgrade, assembled in Elgin, Oklahoma, and used at Fort Sill will improve force performance and survivability, while also reducing the logistics burden for soldiers. The NDAA authorizes full funding at \$646.4 million to acquire 59 new PIMs as part of section 4101 of the NDAA.

B-21 Long Range Strike Bomber

Inhofe supported fully funding the B-21 program that is critical to replacing our aging fleet of bomber aircraft including the B-52 and B-1 aircraft with over \$2 billion. This funding was secured under section 4201 of the NDAA. The B-21 will enable the United States to operate bombers in anti-access/area denial environments and will be capable of carrying both precision-guided conventional and nuclear weapons. This aircraft, once fielded, will be sustained at Tinker Air Force Base, as is the case for the B-1 and B-52.

“The ability to hold any target at risk across the globe, even in the most highly defended areas, is an essential element of deterrence and critical to the success of our national security strategy, both now and well into the future. For the Air Force, a B-21 fleet of sufficient size and capability is indispensable in carrying out this mission. Its advances in stealth and technology make the B-21 a formidable weapon system that our adversaries must consider when threatening our national interests.” – Mark Tarpley, president of the Air Force Association Gerrity Chapter, Oklahoma City

KC-46A Procurement and Basing

Inhofe supported increased funding and procurement of two additional KC-46 aircraft bringing the total FY18 procurement to 17 KC-46 aircraft under section 4101 of the FY18 NDAA. The KC-46 tankers ensure our military’s ability to engage in operations around the globe. Altus Air Force Base is programmed to receive 8 KC-46 aircraft and will receive \$4.9 million in military construction funds to complete the KC-46 Fuselage Trainer Facility. Tinker Air Force Base has been selected to provide all depot maintenance for the KC-46 with construction underway for a KC-46A Depot System Fuel Laboratory as well as taxiways and ramp space to support KC-46 depot maintenance.

“As the Chairman of the Altus Military Affairs Committee, I am grateful for the tremendous support to Altus and our great nation from Senator Jim Inhofe and his persistent work with the Senate Armed Services Committee, Oklahoma delegation and the United States Air Force throughout the development and delivery of the KC-46A... For over 75 years, Altus AFB has played a critical role in providing for the common defense of our great nation. Delivery of the KC-46A to Altus AFB coupled with the KC-135 and C-17 training will capitalize a unique synergistic benefit to both meet and exceed global force requirements for the future of our national security.”
– Dr. Joe Leverett, chairman of the Altus Military Affairs Committee

Cyber Security

The rapidly developing cyber space threat requires a clear, comprehensive government strategy to protect our national security and interests. Inhofe supported section 1642 of the NDAA to establish an integrated cyberspace, cybersecurity and cyberwarfare policy, as well as to provide resources to do so. Inhofe further supported language establishing U.S. Cyber Command as a unified combatant command, reflecting the importance of cybersecurity to our national defense. Recognizing the critical importance of government partnership with academic institutions, Inhofe supported language that specifically calls for cooperation with academic cyber centers of excellence, like the University of Tulsa (TU).

“The Russians are the pure competitor of us, but I look at other nations, China for example, and the level of capability and investment they’re making; I’m watching their abilities rise significantly. Iran and North Korea’s [abilities are rising] currently at a moderate level.” Rogers continued, “but clearly the level of investment and ability we’re seeing, and their willingness to employ cyber in some very aggressive ways, would be way beyond our normal risk calculus.” – Adm. Michael Rogers, commander of U.S. Cyber Command

Other Military Construction Projects for Oklahoma

As part of section 4601 of the NDAA that authorizes Military Construction projects, Inhofe supported authorization of \$28.9 million for military construction in Oklahoma. In addition to the \$4.9 million Altus Air Force Base will receive for phase two of its KC-46 Fuselage Trainer facility, Altus will receive \$16 million to replace its aging fire station. The Oklahoma Air National Guard will receive \$8 million to construct a small arms range at Tulsa International Airport.

FY19 NDAA

The *John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act* for Fiscal Year 2019 (NDAA) is a critical piece of legislation that has been passed every year for the last 57 years, and Sen. Inhofe considers it to be the most significant bill of the year. This must pass piece of legislation authorized \$716 billion in funding for the Department of Defense and national security programs at the Department of Energy. This is an increase over the previous year’s funding of \$700 billion.

Sen. Inhofe worked very closely with Senator McCain’s staff to lead the legislation that is a tribute to John McCain’s policies and his priorities and the lasting legacy on our nation. Senator McCain was a true American hero.

The NDAA was enacted at its earliest point in over 40 years, and has helped us restore what we have lost in terms of our military strength during years of chronic underfunding throughout the Obama Administration. The FY19 NDAA made real strides at implementing the National Defense Strategy (NDS) laid out by the Trump administration. The goal of the NDS is to restore America’s competitive edge by blocking global rivals Russia and China from challenging the U.S. and our allies and to keep those rivals from throwing the current international order out of balance. Senator Inhofe fought tirelessly to ensure that the NDAA provides the training, maintenance, and modernization necessary to restore our qualitative and quantitative advantage and reestablish America’s leader of the free world.



The following are provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act FY19 that Inhofe either sponsored or supported:

Pay Raise

The NDAA kept faith with our service members by providing a 2.6% pay raise for our military. This was the largest pay raise in nearly 10 years, modernizing the officer personnel system and supporting our troops and military families.

Civilian Hiring Authorities

Senator Inhofe successfully included language in the FY19 NDAA under Title XI that continued to support civilian hiring authority on installations in Oklahoma, including Tinker Air Force Base and McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, and around the country. There is no community that understands the importance of civilian hiring capability than McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, which is nearly entirely operated by a civilian workforce.

“This bill will ensure the continued, outstanding efforts achieved by the employees of the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (McAAP) in support of our warfighters throughout the world.” –Kevin Priddle, Vice Chairman of the MDSA

Investment in Military Communities

Inhofe authored several provisions that would support investment in military communities. These provisions increased defense spending that allow for improved readiness through increased (MILCON) infrastructure spending, right-sizing troop strength across the Services, increased weapons investment and permanent protection efforts of our Military Training ranges capabilities, all allowing for increased mission capabilities.

One impactful provision authored by Inhofe as section 2861 of the FY19 NDAA included a new Department of Defense program to provide funding to State and local governments for off-base infrastructure projects, such as schools, hospitals, utilities, or emergency response, to address deficiencies in community infrastructure. These infrastructure investments will enhance military value, resilience, and Military quality of life at our military installations.

Section 846 of the NDAA was also included and supported by Inhofe to support the communities around McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and Tinker Air Force Base. This section established a program to make long-term investments in critical skills programs, facilities, and small businesses in defense manufacturing communities.

Modernization of Long-Range Fires

The NDAA prioritizes the modernization of long-range precision fires to improve our capability relative to Russia and China. The Army’s cross-Functional team (CFT), housed at Fort Sill, is responsible for overseeing the modernization efforts required by the NDAA. Sen. Inhofe also authored a provision to provide accountability that requires a report on the military’s long range precision strike capabilities. Fort Sill has shown time and again that they will ensure the Army has the capability to remain competitive against America’s greatest threats. The provision authored by Sen. Inhofe will ensure that Fort Sill will continue to be a leader in the Army’s overall modernization efforts.

B-21 Long Range Strike Bomber

Inhofe also worked extensively to ensure that the final bill fully funded the B-52 and B-51 programs that are also maintained at Tinker Air Force Base. This will help push forward with the modernization of the aging B-52 fleet at Tinker.

Request of Assignment of Troops to AFRICOM

Senator Inhofe ensured legislation was included in the NDAA that would seek the feasibility and suitability of assigning one of the future Security Forces Assistant Brigades (SFABs) to United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) to meet current and future security cooperation and partner capacity building requirements. AFRICOM does not currently have any assigned forces but must compete for allocated forces within the Department of Defense’s global force management process. The new SFABs are designed specifically for this type of mission and are manned appropriately, without the need to leave most of the BCT at home station and deploying only the senior leadership of the BCT.

KC-46 tanker

Inhofe included language in the NDAA to authorize the needed \$2.3 billion in funding for increased procurement and funding of the KC-46 tanker, which will soon be stationed at Altus Air Force Base and maintained at Tinker Air Force Base. The first of these planes is scheduled to be delivered on February 8, 2019. The KC-46 tankers are the Air Force's next generation of tanker that will replace the KC-135, and they ensure our military's ability to engage in operations around the globe by refueling all U.S., allied and coalition military aircraft.

The delivery of the KC-46 marks the beginning of a new chapter for Altus Air Force Base and Tinker Air Force Base. The new KC-46 program clearly demonstrates the Oklahoma is home to the future of the Air Force. That isn't accidental, it is the result of a highly skilled workforce, excellent base leadership and the impressive community support for our military.



Strengthening Against Chinese Technology Companies

Inhofe has raised concerns about Huawei and ZTE's ties to the Chinese government and potential impacts to U.S. cyber security. With several Senate colleagues, he sent a letter to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney, raising concerns that several General Services Administration (GSA) entities were continuing to use and sell products compatible with Chinese-owned Huawei and ZTE. The Senators' requested that GSA immediately delist all affiliated products. In the FY19 NDAA, Inhofe successfully included a provision that would prevent DOD from using ZTE or Huawei products or from selling them on military installations.

Armed Services Hearings

Inhofe led several vital hearings to provide oversight of the state of our nation's military and the efforts to restore the capabilities of our military.

Current Readiness of U.S. Forces

Inhofe led a hearing of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support to receive testimony on the current readiness of our military forces. This hearing was critical for the understanding of the true readiness levels of each service. This information was paramount in defending future budget requests that will be so important to provide the consistent funding our military needs to allow the U.S. to return to its role as a leader in the world.

The Trump administration rolled out their National Defense Strategy in January of 2018, and it laid out a new strategic approach to addressing the military challenges. These challenges include building a more lethal force, strengthening alliances and attracting new partners, and reforming the Department of Defense for greater performance and affordability. Inhofe believes that building a more lethal force begins with rebuilding and maintaining our readiness while also looking forward to modernizing the structure of our forces.

This hearing was important because Inhofe was able to get directly to the problem and ask leaders of our military two very important questions

1. How do we regrow and sustain our force?
2. How do we maintain the equipment that has been through two decades of war while modernizing?

The testimony received in these hearings was crucial for confirming why we needed to invest in our national defense.

"We weren't getting the appropriate funding to properly maintain our units at the proper level. We are getting that funding right now, but it needs to sustain because we need to fill in the holes from readiness that we let develop over the last couple of years. We were not getting the timely, predictable and sustained funding that we needed."

-General James C. McConville, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

Admiral William F. Moran, Vice Chief of Naval Operations

"Lost opportunity and lost time are something that's not a one-for-one recovery... stable funding over time at the right amount with paying attention to our people will get us out of the hole."

-General Glenn M. Walters, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps
-General Stephen W. Wilson, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Health of the Department of Defense Industrial Base and its Role in Providing Readiness of the Warfighter

Inhofe led a hearing on March 29, 2017, to discuss the health of the Department of Defense organic industrial base and their crucial role in providing readiness to the warfighter. The witnesses were Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche, deputy commanding general of Army Materiel Command; Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags, commander of Naval Air Systems Command; Vice Adm. Thomas Moore, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command; Lt. Gen. Michael G. Dana, deputy commandant of Marine Corps Installations and Logistics; and Lt. Gen. Lee K. Levy, commander of Air Force Sustainment Center.

During the hearing, Gen. Levy of Tinker Air Force Base highlighted the return of \$2.4 billion to the Air Force as a result of the Air Force Sustainment Center in Oklahoma.



“In the four years since [it] was created, we have begun to operate Air Force logistics as one common enterprise. We’ve been able to return \$2.4 billion back to our U.S. Air Force... That’s money that goes back to addressing readiness and critical modernization challenges that our Air Force has. From a performance perspective, we have managed to...improve safety and quality on all of our platforms. We were able to, for example with the KC-135, go from three sources of repair—two commercial and one organic—to one source of repair—organic. Now every KC-135 in the United States Air Force, about 76 a year, received their program depot maintenance at the Air Force sustainment center at Tinker Air Force Base. All three of those locations—at Hill AFB, Tinker AFB and Robbins AFB—are operated as an enterprise. So if an F-15 comes to Robbins for repair, the engine comes to Tinker and the landing gear goes to Hill. By operating as an enterprise we find efficiencies, we find synergies, we drive up performance and as importantly we drive down costs to our Air Force.”

Current Readiness of U.S. Forces – Feb 14, 2018

Inhofe held a Readiness subcommittee hearing entitled, Current Readiness of US. Forces where the Vice Chiefs of Staff of each service branch testified about current readiness challenges. This hearing demonstrated that the increased investment from the year before showed results for military readiness, but more work remained.

General James C. McConville, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army: “Beyond current readiness concerns, we are at an inflection point where we can no longer afford to defer modernizing our capabilities and developing new ones without eroding competitive advantages of our technology and weapon systems. While we remain the most capable fighting force in the world, without immediate action, we may not be able to make that same statement in five years. With that challenge in mind, we have undertaken a sweeping reform of the Army acquisition process, and made modernization a top priority.”

Admiral William F. Moran, Vice Chief of Naval Operations: “At the height of the Cold War, approximately one in six ships were deployed on any given day, today almost one in three are deployed on any given day. This “math problem” clearly demonstrates that national demands for your Navy far exceed its capacity, driving operational tempo to unsustainable levels. Compound those facts with *Budget Control Act (BCA)* funding caps over the past five years which challenged the ability of the Navy to adequately address the full range of needed investments while meeting near-term commitments. And, the world continues to grow more complex and competitive.”

General Glenn M. Walters, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps: “Readiness is essential to our ethos... We cannot afford to build readiness after a crisis occurs. We must be ready to respond immediately. Previous strategies focused our investment on readiness to defeat violent extremist organizations and meet steady-state geographic combatant commander (GCC) requirements. After years of prioritizing readiness to meet steady-state requirements, our strategy now defines readiness as our ability to compete, deter and win against the rising peer threats we face. We define readiness by whether we possess the required capabilities and capacity we need to face the threats outlined in the NDS.”

General Stephen W. Wilson, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force: “It is our top priority to restore readiness to win any fight at any time. Nearly three decades of non-peer, non-traditional conflict has consumed our readiness attention. Today’s world requires an Air Force ready for great power competition. As conveyed by the National Defense Strategy (NDS), our nation’s competitors are moving at a speed and scale unseen in recent periods. Air Force advantages are at risk. We must act with urgency. Speed will win in preparation, just as in battle. We will remain relentless in our pursuit of readiness, and by extension lethality.”



Army Posture Hearing – April 12, 2018

During a SASC hearing with the Honorable Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army, and General Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the Army about the posture of the Department of the Army, Senator Inhofe took the opportunity to discuss the future of Ft. Sill and the Army's top modernization priorities.

“But, now we have this program that I think is going to put us in a position where we should be. Getting back up ahead of our adversaries. That’s what we want to get done.”

Inhofe: Another area that I'm particularly interested in, of course, is our artillery. The fact that other—both China and Russia have passed us up. In terms of range, in terms of rapid fire and right now, we are in a position—we are working on a system to correct that—the PIM program. Of course, I—in my opening statement—I talked a little bit about what's happened in the past with the Crusader, the Future Combat System. But, now we have this program that I think is going to put us in a position where we should be. Getting back up ahead of our adversaries. That's what we want to get done. Secretary Esper, can you articulate what your number one priority is for modernization to meet the new National Defense Strategy. Let's start with that.

Esper: Yes, Senator. The Army has outlined six modernization priorities beginning number one with long range precision fires and the sixth being soldier lethality. With regard to long-range precision fires, we are pursuing technologies at the tactical, operational and strategic level. So, at the tactical level, as you mentioned—the PIM program is very important. At the operational level, it's the extended-range cannon artillery. And at the strategic level, it would be hypersonics, the ability to really reach deep and in support of the Navy and Air Force to do that.

On May 18, 2018, Senator Inhofe was able to announce that the Army had chosen to officially station two cross functional teams at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. The Army will use the eight cross functional teams to accomplish their top modernization priorities. The teams dedicated to long range precision fires and air and missile defense will be headquartered at Fort Sill.

Dunford and Mattis Posture Hearing – April 26, 2018

Senator Inhofe questioned then Secretary of Defense, James Mattis, David L. Norquist, Under Secretary of Defense; and General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about the posture of the Department of Defense budget. Senator Inhofe took the opportunity to question General Dunford and Mattis on the importance of adequate defense spending.

Inhofe: So, from FY20 on, would be a crisis if we did not [provide adequate and stable funding for defense]?

Dunford: If we return to the *Budget Control Act* and sequestration levels, we would not have completed the recovery that we've been on. This, as you pointed out in the beginning, Senator Inhofe, the challenges that we have right now took us 10 or 15 years to develop. It's going to take us more than two or three years to recover from those challenges.

Inhofe: I understand, I understand that. You agree, I assume, Secretary.

Mattis: I agree, Senator, 100 percent and as the Ranking Member pointed out, we have future capabilities we must develop now if we are going to carry out our responsibilities to those who sit before this committee in years ahead, so the dangers we can see growing and I think that we're going to have to maintain ourselves at the cutting edge of technology, organization and combat lethality.

Selected National Security Speeches

North Korea – During the 115th Congress, Senator Inhofe spoke several times regarding the threat to our homeland and allies posed by North Korea.

June 22, 2017: Inhofe speaks on the Senate floor on the North Korea ballistic missile threats and the need to pass the fiscal year 2018 *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* in a timely manner to defend our homeland and allies. Senator Inhofe was able to include full funding for missile defense, including \$9.9 billion for the Missile Defense Agency in support of programs vital to developing advanced technology, protecting forces in South Korea, and countering emerging threats from Iran and North Korea.

July 18, 2017: During a nomination hearing to reappoint Gen. Selva as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Inhofe and Gen. Selva agreed North Korea's recent intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests demonstrated they have the range capability of attacking the United States. To defend against this threat, Inhofe supported increasing funding for the Missile Defense Agency in the FY18 *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* by \$631 million. This funding will provide for modernization of the ground-based missile defense, including the purchase of 24 additional Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) systems.

November 30, 2017: After North Korea tested yet another ballistic missile, one that had the range to reach the US, Inhofe went to the Senate floor to speak on the importance of adequately funding US missile defense.

December 2018: Inhofe delivered a series of floor speeches titled "Common Sense for the Common Defense." This series of speeches were designed to highlight key national security policies and the need for adequate defense spending.

Selected National Security Letters & Non-NDAA Legislation

February 9, 2017: Inhofe, along with several Senate colleagues, sent a letter to President Trump regarding the vital mission at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station (GTMO), highlighting the need for this mission to continue undeterred. Congress has continuously opposed and prohibited the closure of GTMO since 2010, with Inhofe ensuring passage of the legislation through the NDAA each year. Inhofe also authored an op-ed on Fox News praising President Trump for keeping the facility open.

March 15, 2017: Inhofe sent a letter to Secretary Mattis expressing urgency in lifting the civilian hiring freeze, especially at our depots and commissaries. Tinker Air Force Base is vital to our readiness mission for the Air Force and a civilian hiring freeze is damaging to the organic capability of the base. A long-standing supporter of our commissaries, Senator Inhofe recognized the importance of our civilian workforce to operate this important benefit for our service members and their families. After working closely with the administration, the civilian hiring freeze was lifted in March of 2017.

April 4, 2017: Senator Inhofe, along with several Senate colleagues, sent a letter to President Trump highlighting the threat from North Korea while they continued to advance their ballistic missile program. The Senators wrote to support the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to our partner in the region, South Korea, to defend against the increasing North Korean threat.

November 6, 2017: Inhofe was instrumental in getting U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) stood up as a unified combatant command 10 years ago. On November 6, 2017, Inhofe reinforced his support for the command by sending the Commanding General, General Waldhauser, a letter requesting a list of resources needed by the command to ensure success in mission. AFRICOM is one a few commands without resources directly allocated to them. Inhofe has worked tirelessly through his position on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to ensure that our warfighters assigned to AFRICOM are given the resources they need to succeed.

“The National Defense Industrial Association presented Inhofe the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award, their highest honor, in recognition of Sen. Inhofe’s steadfast commitment to the security of our nation and dedication to our men and women in uniform.”

To continue this work, on April 9, 2018, Inhofe sent a letter to Secretary of the Army, Mark Esper, requesting the feasibility of assigning a Security Forces Assistance Brigade (SFAB) to AFRICOM. Senator Inhofe was able to include language in the FY19 NDAA with the same request. Relatively new to the Army, SFAB’s are specialized units with the core mission to conduct training, advising, assisting, enabling and accompanying operations with allied and partner nations. Senator Inhofe believes that the SFAB mission and the mission at AFRICOM are rightly aligned for a great partnership.

November 17, 2017: Inhofe led a letter to President Trump in support of Iraqi Kurdistan and their role in protecting religious liberty in the region. With ISIS being driven from Iraq, there is concern that Iran’s influence is growing and has the potential to undermine the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and overall stability of the region.

July 2018: Inhofe introduced a Senate resolution to reinforce the need for greater defense spending in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This kept in line with President Trump’s request at the annual NATO summit that all NATO allies work to fulfill defense spending commitments. During President Trump’s administration, NATO allies have started increasing their defense budgets. This year, NATO expects eight allies to meet their goal, and 15 allies are on track to hit their target by 2024. It is critical the NATO alliance stays strong and has the funding it needs to carry out of global security missions.

Awards

Inhofe received the U.S. Army Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service from the Secretary of the Army. It is the highest award that the Secretary of the Army can grant to a private citizen and recognizes distinguished civilian service.

The National Defense Industrial Association presented Inhofe the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award, their highest honor, in recognition of Sen. Inhofe’s steadfast commitment to the security of our nation and dedication to our men and women in uniform. Founded in 1979, Dwight D. Eisenhower Award recognizes the significant contributions Dwight David Eisenhower made as President of the United States and as General of the Army to the long-term strategic posture of America’s defense industrial base. The award is given to an American citizen who has made an outstanding contribution toward increasing public awareness of our national defense needs. Past recipients of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award include Congressman Mac Thornberry; Country star Trace Adkins; former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta; former Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter; and former U.S. Rep. Buck McKeon.

Travel

March 2017: Inhofe visited the National Guard Soldiers of Oklahoma’s 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during a Congressional Delegation visit to Ukraine. A contingent from the 45th, commanded by Colonel David Jordan, has been in Ukraine since January on a yearlong mission to join partner nations’ militaries in helping train the Ukrainian Army.

Feb 2018: Inhofe led a delegation to South Korea and Japan to discuss the importance of missile defense and countering North Korea as well as China’s growing influence in the region with our allies.



AVIATION

2018 FAA Bill

On October 5, 2018, President Trump signed into law the *FAA Reauthorization Act* of 2018, the longest FAA reauthorization bill since 1982. This FAA bill is a win for general aviation, pilots and consumers everywhere. It makes needed investments in our nation's airport infrastructure, supports the general aviation community, improves commercial airline service, streamlines the FAA's regulatory processes, enhances aviation security and promotes the responsible and safe integration of drones in our national airspace. As an active pilot with over 11,000 flight hours, Senator Inhofe has consistently fought to ensure the voice of pilots and the entire aviation community is heard in Washington. A number of bills and legislation authored by Senator Inhofe, based on feedback gathered direct from pilots at fly-ins across the country like EAA Airventure Oshkosh were included in the FAA Bill:

- ▶ ***The Fairness for Pilot's Act:*** In spite of the success of the Pilots Bill of Rights and the third class medical reforms contained in the Pilots Bill of Rights 2, more work had to be done to ensure pilots do not needlessly suffer at the hand of an overbearing bureaucracy. The *Fairness for Pilots Act* improves transparency for pilots subjected to FAA enforcement proceedings by requiring the FAA to articulate the specific activity under investigation and to provide airmen specific related documentation. The legislation also strengthens the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) program by requiring that all notices be posted in a publically available, central forum online. These provisions were enacted as Sections 392, 393, 394, 395, and 396 in Public Law 115-254.
- ▶ ***The FLIGHT Act:*** The *Forward Looking Investment in General Aviation, Hangars, and Tarmacs (FLIGHT) Act* will empower federal investment in general aviation airports. These general aviation airports are economic engines for communities, powering investment, job growth and a host of aviation related activities that supports substantial local economic development. This bill also improves project delivery at general aviation airports by streamlining environmental regulations so general aviation airports can invest in themselves, not needless bureaucracy. Finally, this bill would also ensure that building experimental aircraft counts as aeronautical activity at airports. These provisions were enacted as Sections 155, 191, 131 in Public Law 115-254.

- ▶ ***The Securing and Revitalizing Aviation (SARA) Act:*** This legislation empowers and supports the next generation of needed pilots by giving young Americans access to quality aviation curriculum such as ground school—a critical first step for most careers in aviation. It further embraces needed reforms to the selection, training, and deployment of designated pilot examiners. These reforms will address the substantial delays recreational and commercial pilots face in have access to an adequate number of examiners to schedule check rides, impacting their ability to obtain and maintain necessary qualifications. Finally, this bill requires the FAA to provide air traffic services for general aviation events without additional cost for participants. General aviation pilots already pay taxes to fly in our nation’s air space; they should not have to pay another fee on top just to do something they love to do. These provisions were enacted as Sections 625, 319, and 530 in Public Law 115-254.
- ▶ ***The Volunteer Pilot Protection Act:*** Pilots are Good Samaritans, always willing to lift a helping hand to support people in need in their community. This bill provides volunteer pilots with limited liability protection when they are flying for the public benefit—such as flying such as flying patients for medical transport (including medical transport for veterans), disaster relief, humanitarian assistance or other similar charitable missions. This is a no-brainer, breaking down a barrier that limits the important charitable efforts of Oklahoma pilots. It should have been done a long time ago. This provision was enacted as Section 584 in Public Law 115-254.
- ▶ ***The FAA Aircraft Registry Office Bill:*** Oklahoma City is home to the FAA Aircraft Registry Office, which supports important national security missions, in addition to supporting a significant portion of our nation’s aviation related economic activity. This bill directs FAA to keeps the Aircraft Registry Office open in the event of a government shutdown so its personnel can continue to support anti-terrorism efforts. This provision was enacted as Section 518 in Public Law 115-254.
- ▶ ***The Modernize Training at Aviation Maintenance Technician Schools Bill:*** The aviation maintenance industry supports skilled, high-paying jobs around the country. Yet, employers face a costly training gap when hiring new employees because the FAA’s required curriculum has not been updated in over 50 years to reflect technological progress. Now, the FAA must modernize the mandatory curriculum for aviation maintenance technician schools and make it easier for schools to turn successful students into productive mechanics on the flight line or maintenance floor. This provision was enacted as Section 624 in Public Law 115-254.



Oklahomans know firsthand how investments in aviation pay dividends for our communities. Take Bristow. They had a short, outdated runway, but by leveraging state funding with targeted federal investment, the city is now rebuilding their airport runway, fostering local economic development. Bristow isn’t alone—investments in aviation help economies take off in communities across Oklahoma and the nation. That’s why I led the effort to strengthen the Airport Improvement Program for community airports and to ensure general aviation airports have access to the same project delivery benefits as larger, commercial airports.

Workforce Development in the FAA Bill

The Aviation Maintenance Workforce Development Pilot Program Bill: Aviation is an economic multiplier, connecting local communities and cities in support of commercial activity and generating tourism revenue. And yet, in spite of the fact that the aviation maintenance industry provides high-paying, high-skilled jobs across the country, the aviation sector is running out of skilled workers. Communities in Oklahoma and across the nation cannot afford to let these skilled jobs go unfilled. Without maintaining a pipeline of well-trained and knowledgeable aviation maintenance technicians, an industry that contributes \$44 billion to the national economy is in danger of disappearing. You cannot fly an aircraft if you don't maintain that aircraft. This legislation makes it possible to close the skills gap and builds a workforce pipeline by incentivizing businesses, labor groups, educational institutions and local governments to develop innovative ways to recruit and educate the next generation of America's aviation workforce. This provision was enacted as Section 625 of Public Law 115-254.

Inhofe's other priorities in the FAA reauthorization include:

- ▶ Prevents the privatization of Air Traffic Control.
- ▶ Authorizes over \$16 billion for Airport Improvement Program over five years, resources that are especially used by smaller, general aviation airports to support economic growth.
- ▶ Ensures the long-term stability of the federal contract tower program by updating the FAA's dated cost-benefit analysis, protecting the six contract towers in Oklahoma. This provision was enacted as Section 133 in Public Law 115-254.
- ▶ Prevents the FAA from eliminating Contract Weather Observer services at 57 airports, including Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City and Tulsa International Airport. In communities where severe weather is common, having a dedicated on-site meteorological professional to record and interpret weather data is valuable to pilots and airlines. This provision was enacted as Section 523 in Public Law 115-254.
- ▶ Directs the FAA to examine how making repairman certificates portable could support the mobility of the aviation workforce, which would help numerous Oklahomans working in the aviation maintenance industry. This provision was enacted as Section 582 in Public Law 115-254.
- ▶ Requires the FAA to develop plans and strategies for integrating unmanned aircraft, like drones, into airspace and provides support to local communities on addressing the use of drones. This provision was enacted as Section 366 in Public Law 115-254.



Praise for the FAA Bill

- ▶ “We commend Senator Inhofe for his active leadership on the FAA reauthorization bill, which will provide important benefits to general aviation airports in Oklahoma and across the country,” said **U.S. Contract Tower Association policy board members Lance Lamkin, airport administrator at the University of Oklahoma Max Westheimer Airport, and Paul Priegel, airport director at the Stillwater Regional Airport**. “In particular, we are grateful for Senator Inhofe’s tireless efforts working with his colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee to include critical reforms to the FAA contract tower program that will bring much needed and long overdue stability to the program along with provisions that will give resource flexibility for general aviation airports to modernize their facilities.”
- ▶ “Oklahoma has more people per capita employed in aviation maintenance than any other state,” said **Meredith Siegfried Madden, CEO of NORDAM**. “Sen. Inhofe’s new technician-training program will help even more Oklahomans pursue aviation careers and keep our state on the leading edge of the aerospace industry. NORDAM sincerely appreciates Sen. Inhofe leading the charge, making the aviation workforce a top priority in this FAA bill, and fighting for Oklahoma aerospace jobs at every opportunity.”
- ▶ “The whole team at AAR CORP is proud of the bipartisan effort of Senator Inhofe that supports a workforce development for training Aircraft Maintenance Technicians in the recent FAA Authorization bill,” said **John Holmes, president and CEO, AAR CORP**. It is this kind of thought leadership and bias for action that will make a difference to meet the growing need for skilled technicians in the aerospace industry.”
- ▶ “American Airlines hails the passage of the FAA Reauthorization bill, which includes Senator Inhofe’s provision that will create an education program that is essential to developing well-trained and knowledgeable aviation maintenance professionals,” said **David Seymour, senior vice president of Integrated Operations at American Airlines**. “Without a sufficient pipeline of these highly skilled men and women, we cannot sustain the vital work that is essential to our industry. We value Senator Inhofe’s leadership and thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the aviation industry.”

“We value Senator Inhofe’s leadership and thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the aviation industry.”

- ▶ “The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association thanks Senator Jim Inhofe for his leadership and efforts in helping support General Aviation in this FAA bill,” said **Mark Baker president and CEO of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association**. “While the legislation contains several provisions helpful to GA, we have much work to do going forward. Our members spoke loudly and often throughout this process and I am most pleased that the costly ATC reform proposal that divided Congress and the aviation community for nearly two years is not included in this legislation. We can now look forward and work to build consensus to ensure that our nation’s aviation system remains the safest and most efficient in the world.”

Take Flight: Expanding Investments at Small Airports

By: U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe
AOPA | July 31, 2017

As a certificated pilot with more than 11,000 flight hours, I know firsthand the needs of pilots, the general aviation community, and how to improve airport infrastructure. A robust general aviation airport system substantially affects safety, the efficiency of large commercial airports, emergency medical operations, law enforcement activities, agriculture activities, and small businesses throughout the United States. Further, these airports manage military-related and national security air operations, directly supporting the readiness and training of our armed services.

I continue to observe the need to expand investments at general aviation airports, leading me to introduce the *Forward Looking Investment in General Aviation, Hangars, and Tarmacs Act* of 2017, the *FLIGHT Act*. This legislation will give general aviation airports more flexibility to facilitate greater investment in their airport infrastructure.

First, my legislation would give general aviation airports more time to accumulate FAA funding and annually make available discretionary funds for priority projects through a nationally competitive process. Second, this legislation would extend key environmental streamlining reforms used by major airports to general aviation airport construction or improvement projects.

“As a certificated pilot with more than 11,000 flight hours, I know firsthand the needs of pilots, the general aviation community, and how to improve airport infrastructure.”

Today, the FAA’s environmental review processes are especially burdensome on small airports, which operate under limited resources. These reforms would empower general aviation airports with flexibility to devote needed resources to improving their infrastructure.

General aviation airports are hubs of economic activity and job growth for their communities. However, some have difficulty attracting the public/private partnerships that can enable strong economic activity. The *FLIGHT Act* establishes a pilot program to encourage public/private partnerships. Participating airports would be able to use federal resources to attract private-sector investment for the construction of private hangars, business hangars, or investments in other facilities.

Finally, this legislation would designate certain airports across the country as “Disaster Relief Airports” in areas subject to natural disasters. Often with little warning natural disasters cause general aviation airports to become extremely active with aircraft movements and the need to stage responders or supplies for distribution as part of the response effort. Many general aviation airports lack the resources and personnel to adequately prepare and respond to disasters. With a disaster relief designation, airports would have access to funding set aside for airports to use for required emergency planning, equipment, or facilities.

As AOPA members know, the vast majority of airports across the nation support general aviation activities. This legislation builds on past congressional efforts to support general aviation airports and, ultimately, grow the positive impact general aviation airports have on the larger airport ecosystem.

I look forward to attending EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh this year and once again hearing your feedback on issues facing the general aviation community and what general aviation priorities can be best addressed legislatively.



49,000 New Pilots Since Pilot's Bill of Rights 2

Since 2004, pilots, aviation enthusiasts, and the entire general aviation community has worked to reform FAA's third class medical certification process for recreational pilots, which was bureaucratic, burdensome and discouraged pilots from disclosing and treating medical conditions that could have impacted their ability to fly. In 2015, Inhofe introduced his legislation, the Pilots Bill of Rights 2, to reform the third class medical certification process.

In 2016, the President signed into law the FAA bill, which included the third class medical reforms from the Pilots Bill of Rights 2. On May 1, 2017, the FAA finally declared the third class medical reforms required in the Pilots Bill of Rights 2 to be fully implemented. In 2018, after 20 months of the third class medical reform authored by Inhofe was formally implemented by FAA, there were 633,000 active FAA certified pilots, an increase of 49,000 pilots.

These reforms are increasing recreational pilots' knowledge of aeromedical risk while ensuring treatment of identified conditions. The reforms expanded the existing exemption for light sport pilots to include more qualified, trained pilots being treated for medical diagnoses by their private physicians and having completed an online medical education course every two years. The reforms require new pilots to undergo a comprehensive medical evaluation by the FAA before receiving their medical certificate. The reforms also require any individual with severe cardiac conditions or after a major cardiac event to receive an additional screening from the FAA. Individuals with mental health and neurological conditions that may impact their ability to operate an aircraft need ongoing evaluations by the FAA to continue to fly.

"...and we thank Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) for working tirelessly to pass these reforms that will improve safety while reducing the burdensome and ineffective bureaucracy that has thwarted participation in general aviation."

Praise for Inhofe's Pilot's Bill of Rights 2

"BasicMed is the best thing to happen to general aviation in decades," said AOPA President and CEO Mark Baker. "AOPA is developing Fit to Fly, a suite of resources for pilots and physicians that will help people take full advantage of the program, including the free online medical education course, and we thank Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) for working tirelessly to pass these reforms that will improve safety while reducing the burdensome and ineffective bureaucracy that has thwarted participation in general aviation."

"This is the moment we've been waiting for, as the hope of aeromedical reform has become something that pilots can now use. It is a major breakthrough in reducing the cost and administrative burdens on pilots flying recreationally, while maintaining important elements of aviation safety," said Jack J. Pelton, Experimental Aircraft Association CEO/chairman. "Our thanks go to Sen. Inhofe, who fought tirelessly for this measure and whose leadership helped overcome challenges in moving this important legislation for aviators into law."

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.

Each year since 2013, Inhofe has led a bipartisan letter 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 any Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration. Each year, Inhofe has successfully securing full funding for the federal contract tower program, supporting six air traffic control towers in Oklahoma.

More Than Funding

Always focused on cutting bureaucratic red tape, Inhofe worked to enact over-due reforms to the Federal Contract Tower Program. These reforms would remove the annual requirement that contract towers submit cost/benefit reports to FAA. Moving forward, these reports would be tied to specific air traffic levels, ensuring communities invest resources in their control tower and their airport, instead of filling out unnecessary paperwork. Inhofe further advocated the FAA maintain the contract tower cost-share program, which allows local communities to share in the costs of maintaining their airport’s contract tower. In particular, Inhofe highlighted with his colleagues the role that contract tower airports play in military related and national security operations, and how those towers support the training and readiness of military units. The contract tower reforms advocated by Inhofe were included in the 2018 FAA Bill signed into law on October 5, 2018.

Aircraft Certification Reforms

Oklahoma’s aviation and 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. All told, this industry is directly responsible for more than \$43 billion dollars of economic output in the state, and employs over 200,000 Oklahomans. Inhofe was proud to support aircraft certification reform provisions in the FAA Bill that would help bring new safety technology to market, strengthen US aviation sales and exports, and more effectively utilize the resources of FAA and industry.

Inhofe joined 26 of his colleagues in sending a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Commerce Committee urging reforms to FAA’s process for certifying aircraft and aviation products such as engines and avionics. These reforms would further ensure that FAA maintained strong engagement with industry stakeholders so FAA’s safety oversight and certification processes includes performance-based objectives and tracks performance-based metrics. This is key to eliminating bureaucratic delays and increasing accountability between FAA and the aviation community for type certificate resolution or the installation of safety enhancing technology on small general aviation aircraft. These provisions were included in the 2018 FAA Bill signed into law on October 5, 2018.

FAA Grant for Tulsa International Airport

In 2017, the Tulsa International Airport was awarded a FAA grant of \$13.6 million to upgrade a major taxiway. Infrastructure, like the taxiway project, is vital for the economic well-being of Oklahoma, and will increase safety and capacity of airport. Inhofe, committed to the modernization of all of Oklahoma's airports, praised the Tulsa and area communities for securing the grant.

“Tulsa International Airport is very pleased with the federal grant to provide needed upgrades to our taxiways,” Mark VanLoh, President of Tulsa International Airport said. “I appreciate Sen. Inhofe’s leadership in advocating for funding for the taxiway project and other infrastructure priorities in the state. The upgrade of the taxiway will improve safety and efficiency at Tulsa International Airport.”





BANKING

The Obama-era *Dodd-Frank Act* continues to disproportionately impact small banks in Oklahoma. Sen. Inhofe is committed to helping small banks receive much needed regulatory relief from the overbearing and costly bureaucracies by undoing unnecessary rules and advocating for the elimination of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The CFPB, a rogue, unaccountable federal agency, treats small, community banks the same as Wall-Street firms, means local banks are forced to focus time and resources on compliance costs, rather than serving Oklahoma small business owners.

In 2017, Congress successfully used the *Congressional Review Act (CRA)* to repeal one of the most egregious rules of the CFPB—the arbitration rule. Inhofe proudly supported this CRA, which was revoked as PL 115-74. The rule, which would limit the use of arbitration as a means of settling a dispute, would have increased costs to consumers, contributed to endless litigation and would have provided no substantial benefit to consumer protection.

Fortunately, the tides began to turn at the CFPB after President Trump appointed OMB Director Mulvaney as the acting head of the CFPB when the Obama-appointed director stepped down. Mulvaney worked to correct much of the damaging and unconstitutional actions by the CFPB. In December 2018, Inhofe proudly voted to confirm President Trump's former OMB official, Kathy Kraninger, as the CFPB's new director. Kraninger, with her experienced background, is working to take aggressive action against those who commit fraud and other consumer offenses, while ensuring regulations intended to protect consumers and businesses are enforced appropriately.

During the 115th Congress, Inhofe cosponsored a number of banking reform measures intended to provide relief for community and local banks, but the most significant bill was S.2155 – *the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act* (PL 115-174). This historic, bipartisan legislation is the most significant banking reform legislation to become law since Dodd-Frank nearly a decade ago. It repeals many of the excessive and harmful regulations of Dodd-Frank imposed on banks and consumers like the misguided stress test and risk committee requirements for small banks. Inhofe has fought for many years to repeal Dodd-Frank, and he was proud to cosponsor and cast his vote in favor of legislation that repealed many of the harmful provisions in that Obama-era law.



Inhofe meets with Oklahoma bankers to discuss the Dodd-Frank repeal

Following enactment of S.2155 (PL115-174) – the Dodd-Frank reform bill, Inhofe engaged with a number of Oklahoma banks concerned with regulatory burdens imposed by banking oversight institutions like the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), despite the landmark reforms of S.2155. Inhofe took action by engaging with banking regulators, including the FDIC, urging all banking regulatory agencies to grant appropriate administrative relief on banks consistent with congressional intent of S. 2155.

In 2018, Inhofe orchestrated a meeting with then newly-confirmed FDIC Chairman Jelena McWilliams, among other Members of Congress, to discuss the burdens banking regulators often pose on small, community banks like those found in Oklahoma, and ways banking regulators can be more effective. Inhofe’s actions were successful and following his dialogue with banking regulators, the FDIC, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Reserve released updated guidance intended to grant important administrative relief.

Inhofe cosponsored the following banking legislation in 2017 and 2018

- ▶ **S.2155 – Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act:** S.2155 is the most significant banking reform legislation enacted since Dodd-Frank. This much needed legislation repeals burdensome provisions of Dodd-Frank for community and smaller banks that were intended for big banks. **Enacted as PL 115-174.**
- ▶ **S. 366- TAILOR Act of 2017:** Requires regulators to consider varying bank risk profiles and business models when taking regulatory actions, which eases flow of new regulations that have made it difficult for smaller banks to do business.
- ▶ **S. 1002- CLEAR Relief Act of 2017:** Eliminates the outdated and unnecessary regulations that interfere with the lending process between community banks and Americans who want to buy homes or start a business.
- ▶ **S. 370- Repeal CFPB Act:** Repeals the unconstitutional Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- ▶ **S. 387- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Accountability Act of 2017:** Changes the source of funding for CFPB from payment by Federal Reserve System to annual appropriations process to ensure accountability by the agency.
- ▶ **S.2237 – Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act:** Establishes an independent internal agency appellate process at the CFPB for the review of supervisory determinations made at institutions supervised by the CFPB. Also, it sets deadlines for final examination reports and exit interviews of a financial institution by a federal financial regulatory agency and establishes the Office of Independent Examination Review to adjudicate appeals and investigate complaints from financial intuitions concerning examination reports.
- ▶ **S.J.Res.57 – Congressional Review Act on CFPB’s “Indirect Auto Lending” rules:** Nullified a 2013 Obama-era rule submitted by the CFPB related to indirect auto lending and compliance that went beyond CFPB’s regulatory authority and limited the ability of auto dealers to offer auto loans to their customers. **Enacted as PL 115-172.**
- ▶ **S.J.Res.47 – Congressional Review Act on CFPB’s “Arbitration Agreement” rules:** Nullified the harmful CFPB rule that banned companies from using mandatory arbitration clauses. The CFPB rule would have allowed frivolous class-action lawsuits to increase significantly which would have harmed banks and consumers. **Enacted as PL 115-74**



BUDGET

This year, Inhofe was proud to support House Concurrent Resolution 71, a budget resolution for fiscal year 2018 that paved the way for Congress to historic tax cuts and comprehensive tax reform. This budget resolution also cut over \$5 trillion of wasteful spending and would yield a budget surplus of nearly \$200 billion within 10 years. Fiscal restraint has been absent from Washington for too long, and this balanced budget is a first step to reining in the wasteful excesses of federal spending by the previous Administration of the last eight years.

This budget resolution set up clear instructions to restart the engine of the ‘Made in America’ economy by instructing Congress to take up comprehensive tax reform, while also opening the door to oil and gas exploration and development that will promote North American energy independence.

Finally, it also provides the opportunity for Congress to raise the ‘caps’ that arbitrarily limit our nation’s defense spending. America needs to prioritize investment in our military to ensure they have the training, resources and equipment they need to respond to threats from North Korea, Iran, Russia and Islamic extremism.

Inhofe was also a cosponsor of S. 1290, the *Welfare Reform and Upward Mobility Act*, legislation that would strengthen welfare programs and help able-bodied adults find gainful employment by improving reporting requirements for means-tested welfare recipients, revising work requirements and restores authority over housing programs to states.

Restoring Fiscal Sanity in Washington

Once again, Inhofe cosponsored a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that would require the federal government to balance its budget each year. States like Oklahoma and every family across the nation have to balance their budgets, and yet our national government continues to spend with reckless abandon. The best solution to ensure Washington has real budget accountability is if it is enforced by the Constitution. A constitutional amendment would require Washington to put real, permanent limits on the size of government and have serious discussions about our nation’s spending priorities – which are outlined in the Constitution: national defense and transportation. Inhofe has long been proponent of Congress adopting a balanced budget amendment, and will continue to advocate for fiscal conservative in Washington.



Inhofe talks trade policy with Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross

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.

Opening US Beef Exports to China

Since 2003, China has denied U.S. beef producers access to their market—the fourth largest beef market in the world. While China technically lifted its ban on U.S. beef in 2016, additional bureaucratic barriers remained that kept U.S. producers from successfully exporting their product to overseas markets.

On April 5, 2017, ahead of President Trump’s meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Inhofe and 38 colleagues sent a letter to President Trump urging him to raise the critical issue of U.S. beef exports. On June 12, 2017, the US Department of Agriculture announced that the Trump Administration had successfully negotiated to eliminate these technical barriers and U.S. producers would be able to export competitively priced beef and beef products to China.

Free Trade Benefits Energy Exports

On June 8, 2017, Inhofe joined seven of his colleagues in sending a letter to President Trump highlighting the value that free trade agreements have on the United States’ domestic energy production and exports. As a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the United States is able to maximize the benefits of being the world’s largest energy producer, closely integrating energy markets including the movement and sale of oil and natural gas between the United States, Canada and Mexico. This follows his bipartisan letter in 2013 that expedited approval of LNG exports and his involvement in 2015 of the oil export ban. Since President Trump was elected, LNG exports are up 58 percent, crude oil exports are up 251 percent, and coal exports are up 132 percent.

United States, Mexico, and Canada Agreement (USMCA)

President Trump was elected into office promising to rework US trade agreements to ensure American companies and American workers got a better deal than in the past. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed in 1994, before the digital sector of the economy even existed. The United States needs 21st Century trade agreements for a 21st Century global and fast paced economy. As a result of President Trump’s efforts, on November 30, 2018, the United States, Mexico, and Canada signed a new trade agreement, USMCA, which will mean more reciprocal trade between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. USMCA will be directly responsible for opening more export opportunities for Oklahoma farmers, ranchers, and workers by maintaining zero tariffs on agriculture products traded between the US and Mexico while providing Oklahoman wheat, poultry, and dairy producers new access to Canadian markets. USMCA also establishes much needed intellectual property and digital trade protections and enforcement standards so Oklahomans can have confidence their innovation is recognized and respected outside our national borders.

Energy Exports Since Trump

The War on Fossil Fuels is Dead

Under President Obama, the federal government had declared war on fossil fuels, blocking energy infrastructure projects and preventing energy exploration and development on federal lands. With the election of President Trump, the federal government is focused on empowering private sector investment in energy infrastructure projects, while supporting efforts to streamline energy project permitting—and the results are tangible.

In 2017, the United States produced:

- ▶ 15.6 million barrels of oil per day, the highest ever
- ▶ 27.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the highest ever

In 2018, US crude oil production exceeded Saudi Arabia for the first time in two decades and surpassed Russia for the first time since 1999.

Between 2017 and 2018, U.S. net imports of crude oil and petroleum products fell by 1.5 million barrels per day, and by 2020, the US will be a net exporter.



Oklahoma Energy Facts:

- ▶ Oklahoma is 6th in the nation for producing crude oil (2017)
- ▶ Oklahoma refines almost 522,000 barrels of oil per day, which is three percent of the total US petroleum refining capacity
- ▶ Oklahoma is 4th in the nation for producing natural gas (2017)
- ▶ Cushing, Oklahoma, is home to almost 1/6 of the nation's commercial crude oil storage capacity
- ▶ Overall, Oklahoma is a net exporter of energy, and, on average, residential energy prices are 27-34 percent less than the national average.

Inhofe has long advocated for the export of US LNG. In 2013, he led a letter with 33 of his colleagues urging the Department of Energy to expedite its consideration of LNG export permit applications. In 2016, the United States began exporting LNG. In 2018, US LNG export capacity had increased to almost 5 billion cubic feet per day, due in large part to facilities opening ahead of schedule. By the end of 2019, US LNG export capacity will be almost 9 billion cubic feet per day.

“Trump’s ‘America First’ agenda has reshaped our country in a bold, great way. Our taxes are lower, we have fewer regulations, the economy is roaring and millions of new jobs are being created. It’s working.”

Inhofe work on Africa Free Trade

Inhofe in USA Today: Trump should put ‘America First’ by treating African nations as partners

Trump’s “America First” agenda has reshaped our country in a bold, great way. Our taxes are lower, we have fewer regulations, the economy is roaring and millions of new jobs are being created. It’s working.

For too long, the United States has considered Africa an aid project — one where we pour billions of dollars into countries in hopes they will grow. This short-sighted perspective has caused us to fall behind and leaves us vulnerable.

Trump needs to bring his “America First” approach to Africa. He needs to set aside the old, outdated mindset of the State Department and do what no other president has ever done — advance American interests by treating African nations as partners.

African nations want this too. Just look at Rwanda. Less than 20 years ago, Rwanda’s economy was nearly 70% foreign aid. Now, it’s down to a third. I was there in October and their progress is clear — the economy is booming. They’ll reach their stated goal of being self-sufficient very quickly.

Trump’s meeting Friday with Rwanda’s president, Paul Kagame, marks the start of a new approach to Africa. Kagame is a visionary leader, and he’s highly influential across the continent. He was chosen by his peers to be the next chairman of the African Union after he led reform efforts and outlined a future for Africa that is capable of taking care of itself. His goal is to lead African nations out of dependency so they have real partnerships with countries abroad.

Trump has the opportunity to chart a new course in Africa focused on achieving mutual goals. “America First” in Africa means building constructive relationships to advance our economic and security goals. China is already doing this; without action by Trump, we will fall behind.

African nations are becoming significant economic powers. Between now and 2030, their economies, as a bloc, are expected to grow by a rate of 5% per year. They’ll double. Their growing middle class is increasingly an attractive business market for American companies. While it is the policy of the United States to pursue free trade agreements with African nations, bureaucrats in Washington have prevented it from happening. It’s a mindset problem. They don’t believe African nations are ready, but they haven’t seen what I see: the growth of African economies is providing very real opportunities for businesses all over the world. Trump can change the tone for the better and focus American efforts on creating an environment for American business to thrive.

“America First” in Africa also means equipping our partners to address terrorism and regional security threats before they require significant U.S. troop involvement. Our train and equip missions around the continent are a critical part of promoting regional security, stability and prosperity. U.S. Africa Command (Africom) is already leading the way, but it lacks vital resources and basing. To help our partners become active participants in their own regional security goals, Africom needs a resource boost.

Trump’s new Africa policy will benefit American families by giving us a stronger economy and greater security. He has a willing partner in Kagame. They are like minded, their goals are complementary and they both want to change the focus of our relationships. Partnerships. Not aid. Trump’s “America First” agenda is perfect for a new chapter in Africa; he and Kagame can do it together.



EDUCATION

Parents, teachers, administrators and locally-elected school boards are best equipped to make decisions about education—not the federal government. While President Obama passed regulations that expanded the role of the federal government – putting unelected bureaucrats in charge of education, Inhofe remains committed to ensuring that states retain local control of education by fighting against overreaching regulations and expanding opportunity and choice for individual communities.

Inhofe voted in favor of a *Congressional Review Act* that rolled back the Obama-era rule that expanded the role of the federal government in teacher preparation. Besides being an example of federal overreach, by tying federal financial aid to arbitrary assessments would have likely led to fewer teachers serving in the most high-need communities. By blocking this rule, which became PL 115-14, Inhofe stood for teachers and flexibility for local school systems.

Veterans

Inhofe also supported educational initiatives for our veterans. In early August of 2017, the Senate passed by Unanimous Consent the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act*, legislation that made positive reforms to the G.I. Bill to make it easier for veterans to use their benefits at any time in their professional career. On August 16, 2017, President Trump signed the bill into law (PL 115-48).

Section 302 of PL 115-48 included language authored by Inhofe that reinstated veterans' eligibility benefits when for accredited career and technical education (CTE) programs. Previously, veterans were prevented from using their benefits unless it was towards a degree offered by an institution of higher learning, making certain CTEs ineligible. By removing the obstacle, Inhofe made it possible for Oklahoma's veterans to access more than 200 career training programs to obtain necessary and marketable skills.

Career and Technical Education

Inhofe also led a bipartisan letter calling for his colleagues to join him in renewing the *Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*. Not only was he successful in renewing the legislation that ensures students have the skills and training they need to fill high-paying, technical jobs, but he also expanded grant programs that support vocational training in key industries, like aviation and manufacturing.

“As a current student veteran, I am incredibly proud of the progress that has been made to improve the educational opportunities for service members, veterans, and their loved ones... A lifetime GI Bill for future generations guarantees that we are set up for success after our military service ends. It provides support for not only Oklahoma student veterans and their loved ones but also for the Oklahoma State Accrediting Agency which serves to protect G.I. Bill beneficiaries. This type of bipartisan support by both the Senate and the House of Representatives demonstrates that Congress can work together to solve many of the challenges facing our nation.”

Kate Tillotson, Student Veterans of America, Student Veteran of the Year 2017 and President of the University of Tulsa Student Veteran Association



As a result of Americans’ increasing lack of civics education and comprehension, on Constitution Day in 2018, Inhofe introduced S.3446 - *CIVICS Act* with Sen. Angus King (I-ME) which would amend the American History and Civics Education program under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* of 1965 to ensure that in order for an educational institution to receive grants under that program, the institution must teach the Constitution to be eligible for the grant. Under current law, to be eligible for those grants, it is not required to teach the Constitution. This bipartisan legislation emphasizes the importance of the Constitution and our Founding principles.

Under Inhofe’s leadership, the National Defense Authorization Act also included resources to support educational initiatives:

Impact Aid

Inhofe authored language that authorizes \$25 million in supplemental Impact Aid to local educational agencies and schools with military dependent children as well as an additional \$10 million in Impact Aid for schools with military dependent children with severe disabilities, a \$5 million increase from last year.

STARBASE

Inhofe supported language to reauthorize STARBASE, a program to educate and motivate students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. STARBASE currently operates at 76 locations in 40 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, primarily on military installations. The Oklahoma Air National Guard runs the STARBASE program out of two locations, the Will Rogers Air National Guard Base and the Tulsa Air National Guard Base, with over 4,500 students participating every year.

“The hands on STEM instruction and activities in the DoD STARBASE program are designed to provide students with the motivation to continue their education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math career fields, which are vital to our national security interests. An added bonus is that they get to interact with civilian and military personnel actually working in STEM career fields on our National Guard and Active Duty military installations. The Oklahoma National Guard is proud to manage and operate this much needed program for the young people of Oklahoma.”

Gen. Louis W. Wilham, Adjutant General for the Oklahoma Army National Guard

Inhofe cosponsored legislation impacting education:

- ▶ **S.1413** – *Teachers are Leaders Act*: Amends the *Higher Education Act* of 1965 to authorize existing grant funding for the establishment of professional development programs for teachers who remain in the classroom while also carrying out formalized responsibilities.
- ▶ **S.Res.514** – National Charter Schools Week: Establishes the week of May 7th as “National Charter Schools Week” and congratulates students, parents, teachers and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education.
- ▶ **S.J.Res.26** – *Congressional Review Act* resolution disapproving of an Obama-era Department of Education “Teacher Preparation Issues” Rule: Eliminates harmful and wrongly labeled “teacher preparation rules” mandated by U.S. Department of Education bureaucrats that takes authority away from state and local education leaders.





ENERGY

Keeping Promises to Withdraw from Unrealistic International Agreements

Inhofe has been a leader in advocating for stable, diverse and affordable energy—working to increase domestic energy production and achieve energy independence. With President Trump, we have successfully unlocked the engine of the American economy and achieved energy dominance.

Cutting Red Tape for Pipeline Permitting

Currently, the United States is the world's largest oil and gas producer and since the election of President Trump, our crude oil exports have increased 251 percent. Coal exports are up 132 percent and natural gas exports have increased 58 percent. Not only is the energy resurgence good for Oklahoma—contributing billions of dollars and thousands of jobs to our economy—but it is good for our nation.

Promoting State and Local Authority

Inhofe successfully worked during the 115th Congress to open up a small part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for responsible energy development as part of historic tax reform, PL 115-97. For over forty years, there has been an ongoing effort to allow for energy production, but it has been blocked time and time again as the federal government keeps Alaskans from operating in their own best interests.

Opening ANWR moves the U.S. closer to energy independence—a vital part of our national security—and energy dominance.

Inhofe Speaks about ANWR and Energy Independence

Mr. President, I now turn to another topic of importance to American families—our energy independence. While many have talked about the importance of the budget reconciliation process to set us up to pass the historic, much needed tax cuts for our individuals and small businesses, the process also allows the Senate to use reconciliation for something equally as valuable—to allow energy exploration in Alaska.

Yesterday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee met to consider legislation to open up a very small part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for responsible energy development. This bill was successfully passed by the Committee and I look forward to helping it continue to move through Congress.

I've long been an advocate for a long period of time for responsible development of untapped resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is interesting, the people of Alaska—they all want it to happen. They know all the benefits that will come to Alaska, the money that will be there. People talk about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as if this is some great thing—it is the size of South Carolina. It is a small thing.

Authorizing the sale of leases in Alaska will also increase revenue to the United States. It is estimated that energy production in Alaska can lead to over \$1 trillion in revenue. Responsibly managed, that will have a positive impact on reducing our national debt. Most significantly, opening ANWR is allowing Alaskans to do what they want to do.

We are so good at—in this body—thinking we know more about what's good for Alaska, what's good for Oklahoma, what's good for Georgia, then they do in those states. One of the few things we do right around this place is the highway bills. With highway bills, we get the priorities of the states and they decide what it is they want to do in their states.

For too long, the federal government has been keeping Alaskans from acting in their own best interest.

Finally, increasing energy production in Alaska is a key part of making the United States not only energy independent, but energy dominant.

And we are on the verge of doing just that. Earlier this week the executive director of the International Energy Agency, Faith Birol said that the “the United States will become the undisputed global oil and gas leader for decades to come” and that “the growth in production is unprecedented, exceeding all historical levels.”

ANWR could be, and should be part of that story.

Energy independence is vital to our national security. How many of these countries who were a part of the old Soviet Union have wanted their allegiance to us, but are forced to buy their gas from Russia and Iran—and they don't want to do it. Now, we are taking them off the hook.

I had a great experience, not long ago, of being invited by the president of Lithuania to come and open their first terminal.

Last month Harold Hamm, chairman and CEO of Continental Resources in Oklahoma, announced that they would begin exporting oil to China. Exporting to China. That's kind of a big deal. He's the one who talks about how we will be controlling enough energy to have that same impact on the rest of the world.

President Trump has been clear—he intends to make the United States a net energy exporter, something we haven't been since 1953. We're going to do it.

Opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be a big step towards this initiative and I applaud the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for helping the administration make this happen.

Inhofe also worked with President Trump to remove the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement. Signed by President Obama, the Paris Agreement was unrealistic—with unattainable goals for U.S. emissions, while doing nothing to reign in the emissions of China or India. Inhofe led a letter with 21 colleagues urging President Trump to pull out of the agreement to advance American energy independence. One week later, President Trump announced he was withdrawing from the Paris agreement, keeping his promise to the American people.

While America is leading the world in energy production, there are still barriers to creating energy infrastructure. Inhofe introduced S. 1860, the *Parity Across Reviews Act (PARs) Act*, which was ultimately enacted on September 28, 2018, as PL# 115-247. This legislation will ensure all transmission transactions are provided parity in the review process by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). “The law should be clear and fair when it comes to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) mergers and consolidations authority,” said Sen. Inhofe, a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. “By holding all energy transactions to the same standard, we can empower FERC to operate more efficiently and eliminate burdensome requirements—saving consumers money. I look forward to working with Senator Heinrich to pass this legislation swiftly.”

“Inhofe led a letter with 21 colleagues urging President Trump to pull out of the agreement to advance American energy independence. One week later, President Trump announced he was withdrawing from the Paris agreement, keeping his promise to the American people.”

To protect the right of states to regulate their own lands, Inhofe introduced S. 334, the *Fracturing Regulations are Effective in State Hands (FRESH) Act*, which states explicitly a state is the only authorized entity to regulate hydraulic fracturing on land within its borders, removing any federal nexus. This bolsters Inhofe’s longstanding successful initiative to block regulation of hydraulic fracturing by the federal. Since 1999, Inhofe has prevented the federal government from regulating hydraulic fracturing, and this legislation builds on his 2005 legislation that prevents the EPA from regulating fracking.

He also introduced S. 335, the *Federal Land Freedom Act* of 2017, which gives each state the right to develop all of the energy resources on the federal lands located within that state’s borders except for Indian lands, national parks, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and congressionally designated wilderness areas. After a state develops a regulatory program governing the leasing and permitting of energy activities on federal land, it would be submitted to the Department of Interior, where it must be considered within 30 days and is protected from endless appeals, making it possible to get projects off the ground in a timely fashion.

Another bill Inhofe introduced was S. 1844, the *Coordinating Interagency Review of Natural Gas Infrastructure Act* of 2017, which would seek to streamline the permitting process for interstate projects at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). “For too long, the natural gas pipeline permitting process has been crippled with inefficiencies that unnecessarily delay critical projects for interstate commerce,” Sen. Inhofe, a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee said. “By streamlining the permitting process, we can get pipelines from planning to serving the public faster and more efficiently. This bill brings all federal, state and local regulatory agencies to the table early on to coordinate participation—resulting in a more collaborative and timely review process. This legislation demonstrates a clear, bipartisan commitment to working on broad infrastructure priorities and highlights key opportunities to use regulatory reform to leverage private sector investments. I am grateful to work with Senator King to spearhead this effort and look forward to its consideration in the Senate.”

Below are energy bills Inhofe cosponsored:

- ▶ **S. J. Res. 10**, introduced by Sen. McConnell (R-KY), signed into law by President Trump on February 16, 2017, as PL# 115-5. This joint resolution disapproved under the *Congressional Review Act* the final rule submitted by the Secretary of the Interior relating to stream protection, would nullify the Stream Protection Rule, overturning one of many Obama-era rules that unfairly targeted the coal industry.
- ▶ **S. 33**, the *Improved National Monument Designation Process Act*, introduced by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), states before a national monument can be designated on public land, the President must obtain congressional approval, certify compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA), and receive notice from the governor of the state in which the monument is to be located that the state legislature has enacted legislation approving its designation.
- ▶ **S. 132**, the *National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Crapo (R-Idaho), would require the President, before a national monument can be designated on public land, to obtain congressional approval, certify compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969, and determine that the state in which the monument is to be located has enacted legislation approving its designation.
- ▶ **S. J. Res. 11**, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation," introduced by Sen. Barrasso (R-Wyo.), would nullify the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management titled "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation." The rule published in the Federal Register on November 18, 2016, addresses waste generated during oil and gas production.
- ▶ **S. J. Res. 15**, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule submitted by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management relating to resource management planning, introduced by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), would nullify the rule finalized by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on December 12, 2016, relating to the resource management planning process of the BLM under the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act* of 1976.
- ▶ **S. Res. 117**, a resolution designating the week of April 15, 2017, through April 23, 2017, as "National Park Week", introduced by Sen. Daines (R-Mont.), agreed to in the Senate April 5, 2017.
- ▶ **S. 1404**, the *Natural Gas Export Expansion Act*, introduced by Sen. Cruz (R-TX), would amend the *Natural Gas Act* regarding natural gas imports or exports to expand the expedited application and approval process to any nation, even if not a party to a free trade agreement with the United States, that is not specifically excluded by this bill.
- ▶ **S. Res. 315**, a resolution designating November 4, 2017, as National Bison Day, introduced by Sen. Hoeven (R-N.D.), agreed to in the Senate October 31, 2017.
- ▶ **S. 3609**, the *Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act*, introduced by Sen. Udall (D-N.M.), would amend the *National Trails System Act* to designate a trail of approximately 2,400 miles extending from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, as the Route 66 National Historic Trail.





ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

At the beginning of the 115th Congress, Inhofe passed the gavel to Senator Barrasso from Wyoming to be the chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee. As the senior member of the committee, Inhofe continues to working with members on both sides of the dais to get legislation passed in to law and advance other bills.

Shortly after President Trump took office, he repealed the flawed Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. Inhofe had fought this Obama-era rule since 2014—knowing that it would massively expand the scope of the federal government over all waters and wet areas in the country, harming farmers and ranchers. Inhofe joined President Trump for the signing ceremony of the repeal where he was recognized by the president for his leadership in working to undo this harmful regulation. Trump, with EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, is currently working on a revised WOTUS rule that will clearly define the jurisdiction of the *Clean Water Act* in a straightforward manner.

President Trump also used executive orders to undo other job-killing regulations that Inhofe fought during the Obama administration. Trump pulled back the Clean Power Plan rule, approved the Keystone Pipeline and Dakota Access Pipeline projects and worked with agencies to address the regulatory obstacles hindering the development and use of our nation's energy resources. The executive order strengthened our economy and

grow jobs all while increasing our national security, ensuring lower energy prices, encouraging innovation in energy production and limiting the heavy hand of bureaucratic, top-down regulations.

Inhofe also authored S. 822, the *Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act*, which was passed in to law on March 23, 2018, as a part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act 2018*, Division N of PL 115-141. The Brownfields program, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has traditionally enjoys strong bipartisan support and provides grants and technical assistance to states, local governments, tribes and redevelopment agencies to support the assessment, cleanup and reuse of Brownfield sites. In 2017, \$80 million provided in grants through the Brownfields program leveraged over \$24 billion in additional investment, supported nearly 130,000 jobs and brought 69,200 acres of idle land back to being ready for productive use. Among other things, the *BUILD Act* reauthorizes the Brownfields program through fiscal year 2023, provides funding for technical assistance grants to small communities and rural areas, expands the scope of eligible grant recipients to include non-profit community groups and authorizes funding for multi-purpose grants to tackle more complex sites.

“The inclusion of the bipartisan BUILD Act in the funding bill shows how Congress is working together to promote local economic development while cleaning up contaminated sites,” said Inhofe. “This program has already seen real results in Oklahoma and the reauthorization will continue to create jobs in communities across the country. Without the Brownfields program, Oklahoma City wouldn’t have Bricktown and Tulsa wouldn’t have the BOK Center; this program has been essential to our communities redeveloping their urban core. Its reauthorization will ensure its continued success, particularly in Oklahoma’s more rural communities.”

Highlights of the BUILD Act include:

- ▶ Authorizes up to \$20,000 in technical assistance grants to eligible entities in small communities, Indian tribes, rural areas, and disadvantaged areas
- ▶ Expands the eligibility for Brownfields grants for nonprofit organizations to include certain nonprofit organizations, limited liability corporations, limited partnerships, and community development entities
- ▶ Increases the funding limit for remediation grants to \$500,000 for each site, with some exceptions for higher funding, and authorizes multi-purpose grants up to \$1 million, which provide greater certainty for long-term project financing
- ▶ Relieves state and local governments from liability under certain circumstances if they own a contaminated site but did not cause the contamination.
- ▶ Allows eligible entities to use up to five percent of their Brownfields grant funding for administrative costs
- ▶ Incentivizes clean energy development on brownfields and revitalization of waterfront sites.
- ▶ Reauthorizes the Brownfield program at the same authorized funding level (\$250 million per year) through fiscal year 2023.

Inhofe cosponsored the *Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA)*, legislation he's worked on for years. It passed Congress and was signed into law on January 15, 2019, by President Trump as PL 115-439. NEIMA will provide greater clarity into the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's budget process and how it recovers costs through fees tied to performance metrics and milestones for licensing and other regulatory actions. NEIMA also directs the Commission to develop a regulatory framework for America's innovators, who seek to deploy advanced nuclear technologies. By creating a new licensing framework for advanced reactors, and adjusting the fee structure as it applies to both traditional nuclear power plants and innovative reactors, NEIMA ensures that the NRC will operate efficiently, in turn allowing us to take full advantage of our country's important nuclear fleet.

Inhofe also worked to enact **S. 692**, the *Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act*. Introduced by Sen. Fischer (R-Neb.), it was signed into law on January 14, 2019, as part of H.R.7279, the *Water Infrastructure Improvement Act*, PL 115-436. This bill would provide local communities with increased flexibility when complying with *Clean Water Act* requirements for updates to water infrastructure projects. The bill would also give communities more autonomy as they prioritize and plan for wastewater and storm water investments.

S. 1137, the *Clean Safe Reliable Water Infrastructure Act*, introduced by Sen. Cardin (D-Md.), was included in the *America's Water Infrastructure Act*, signed into law on October 23, 2018 as PL 115-270. This bill amends the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to expand the availability of resources for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

S. 2421, the *Fair Agricultural Reporting Method (FARM) Act*, introduced by Sen. Fischer (R-NE), was included in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act*, 2018, signed in to law on March 23, 2018 as Title XI in Division S of PL 115-141. This bill amends the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act* of 1980 to exempt air emissions from animal waste at a farm from specified release notification requirements, recordkeeping requirements, and associated penalties.

S. 2364, the *Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now (SRF WIN) Act*, introduced by Sen. Boozman (R-AR), would combine the best aspect of state revolving funds (SRFs) with the leveraging power of the *Water Infrastructure and Innovation Act (WIFIA)* to make the process easier and more affordable for states to meet their underserved or unmet water infrastructure needs. A modified version of this bill was included in *America's Water Infrastructure Act*, signed by President Trump on October 23, 2018, as PL 115-270. "Oklahoma communities are struggling to supply water to their growing populations, upgrade water infrastructure that is beyond its useful life, and keep up with the multitude of unfunded federal mandates they must comply with. These issues are not unique to Oklahoma and this legislation will give states greater flexibility to set priorities and get projects off the ground," said Inhofe, Chairman of the Environment and Public Works' Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Oklahoma Wins in 2018 Water Infrastructure Bill

Inhofe cosponsored S. 2800, the *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018*, with Sen. Barrasso (R-Wyo.), the biennial water infrastructure bill. Inhofe, who began the process of regular legislation, worked to ensure this year's bill was passed and signed in to law as S. 3021, the *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018*. Senator Inhofe praised this legislation that contained many helpful provisions for Oklahomans.

"Today we've passed the third consecutive biennial water resources bill, which allows us to ensure America has modern, updated water resources and infrastructure to maintain our economic competitiveness. By passing this bill, Congress is taking bipartisan action on infrastructure to support states and local communities across the country."

"I'm pleased this bill supports Oklahoma by giving state and local stakeholders greater say in which projects get funded. We also cut needless red tape in this bill by allowing for greater transparency into Corps permitting and real estate processes. I fought to secure provisions in this legislation that will promote economic development in Oklahoma by further advancing the MKARNS priorities, as well as provide certainty in water storage pricing for Bartlesville—saving taxpayers over \$100 million over 10 years. I also worked to include language that could extend the authorization for the Booster Pump Station in Midwest City and provide for the Altus-Lugart dike rehabilitation."

McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS)

Because of Sen. Inhofe's leadership, *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018* authorizes the Three Rivers Chief's report, allowing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin work on the long-term viability of the MKARNS system. This was included as Section 1401 of PL 115-270.

"Chairman Barrasso and Senate EPW Subcommittee members deserve high praise for their attention to America's inland waterway infrastructure needs, ensuring the competitiveness of America's farmers, manufacturers and energy producers. On behalf of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System stakeholders, I applaud the efforts of Senator Inhofe, Senator Boozman and Senator Moran to protect the public and private investments already made and to capture additional benefits for future generations," said Scott Robinson, Director of the Port of Muskogee.

Limitation on Water Storage Costs

In 2016, Bartlesville learned purchasing additional water supply from Hulah and Copan lakes could cost over \$100 million over 10 years based on the current pricing structure for purchasing water from the U.S. Army Corps lakes. Sen. Inhofe secured a provision that would make it affordable for municipalities, like Bartlesville, to contract with the Corps for water supply. This language was included as Section 1122 of PL 115-270.

"On behalf of the City of Bartlesville, I would like to thank Sen. Inhofe for his tremendous work and leadership in securing language in the *'America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018'* that will help ensure needed and affordable water supply for Bartlesville and its surrounding communities," Bartlesville Mayor Dale Copeland said. "This language is vital to the over 50,000 people in the region who depend on access to reliable water storage in order to keep up with regional growth and to foster economic development."

Midwest City Booster Pump Station

The Water System Booster Pump Station and Storage Reconstruction project for the City of Midwest City, Oklahoma, was authorized in the *Water Resources Development Act* of 2007. Unfortunately, this project has never been appropriated and is at risk of being deauthorized at the end of this fiscal year. Sen. Inhofe secured language in the *America's Water Infrastructure Act* to allow for Midwest City to extend their current authorization, if funding is not made available before September 30, 2018. This language was included as part of PL 115-270.

“The City of Midwest City would like to thank Senator Inhofe for inclusion of his provision to extend the authorization for the City’s proposed Booster Pump Station and Storage Tank Reconstruction Project in the recently Committee passed WRDA bill,” stated Midwest City Mayor Matthew Dukes. “We continue to work with the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers to ensure this project is funded and comes to fruition in the near future.”

Corps Real Estate Transparency

When various projects are in need of right-of-ways, it can be difficult to ascertain where the Corps has real estate holdings. Sen. Inhofe included a provision to establish a publicly available database so all stakeholders can see where the Corps’ land holdings exist, signaling to likely applicants the need to obtain special authorization and streamline the permitting process within the Corps of Engineers, as well. This language was included as Section 1107 of PL 115-270.

This provision was supported in a joint letter by the American Petroleum Institute, Associated General Contractors, the National Waterways Conference and the Waterways Council. The letter reads in part: “We support the provision to establish a publicly available central portal for those disclosures so that all stakeholders can more easily view the depth and breadth of the Corps’ holdings. This public database would alert potential applicants of the need to obtain special authorization in a given area and would relieve the Corps of the need to enumerate its real estate interests every time a prospective applicant requests this information. The establishment of a Corps real estate database reflects good Government and optimizes resource requirements for applicants and the Corps. We look forward to continuing to work with you on S. 2800, *America’s Water Infrastructure Act* of 2018.”

Altus-Lugart Dike Rehabilitation

In 2015, the Bureau of Reclamation completed a Corrective Action Study of the W.C. Austin Project within the Altus-Lugart Irrigation District. The study identified several modifications needed to reduce the probability of dam or dike failure. Sen. Inhofe has provided for the modifications to be done at 100 percent federal cost share, saving the users of the system possible rate increases to comply with the required upgrades. This language was included as Section 4309 of PL 115-270.

Allow Remote Survey Data for Permitting Process

Many vital infrastructure projects, like pipelines, can span hundreds of miles, making time-consuming and expensive to manually collect survey data. Sen. Inhofe worked to include a provision in the legislation that would allow aerial survey data to ensure the necessary permits are processed in a timely manner, upon verification on the ground at a later time. This language was included as Section 1118 of PL 115-270.

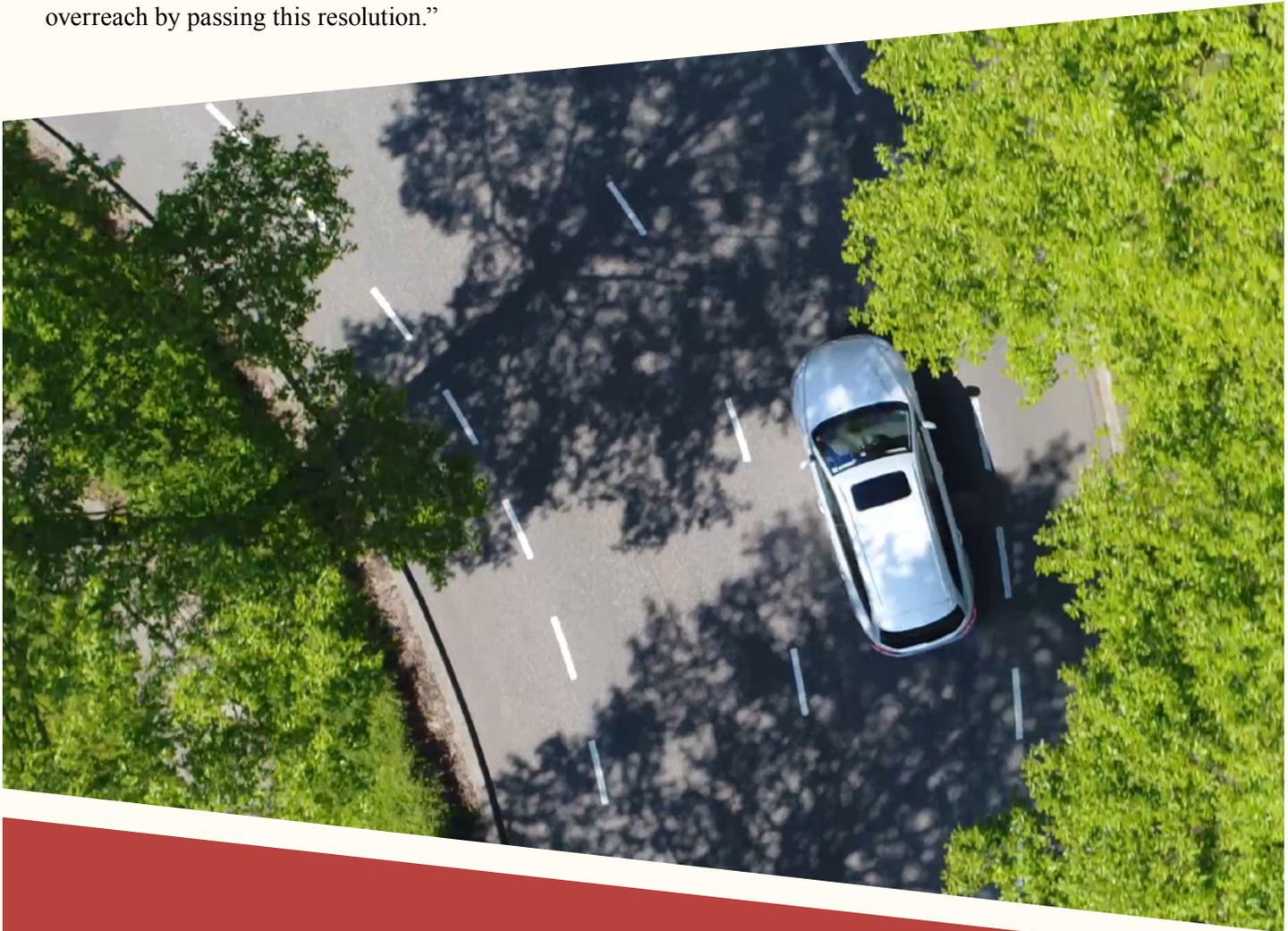
“Williams appreciates Senator Inhofe’s leadership on this important issue. Using remote sensing technologies to ensure pipeline companies and regulators have the best data available ensures that new infrastructure can be evaluated using solid scientific information,” said Alan Armstrong, President and CEO of Williams.



Other bills authored by Senator Inhofe referred to the EPW Committee:

Senator Inhofe also sponsored S. 3226, the *Light-Duty Natural Gas Vehicle Parity Act* of 2018. This legislation would provide parity that would ensure federal agencies give the same regulatory treatment to natural gas vehicles that are provided to electric vehicles. Currently, electric vehicles receive significant regulatory incentives because they are considered “zero emission” vehicles. Natural gas vehicles, despite having significantly lower overall emissions than electric vehicles, receive none of the incentives of other low emission vehicles. Sen. Inhofe’s legislation would provide parity to natural gas vehicles. Sen. Inhofe also sent a letter to Acting EPA Administrator Wheeler urging him to provide regulatory relief while Congress considers the legislation.

Senator Inhofe sponsored S. J. Res. 28, A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to accidental release prevention requirements of risk management programs under the *Clean Air Act*. “This CRA resolution blocks an Obama administration midnight regulation that puts our chemical facilities, surrounding communities and our national security at risk, while doing nothing to actually improve safety,” Inhofe said. “By requiring chemical facilities to disclose to the public the types and quantities of chemicals stored there and their security vulnerabilities, the EPA is giving a blueprint to those who would like to do us harm. Department of Homeland Security, OSHA, and existing EPA regulations will remain in place to continue ensuring the safety of these facilities, their workers and their communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue addressing the last eight years of executive overreach by passing this resolution.”



INHOFE SECURES FUNDING FOR TULSA LEVEE MODERNIZATION

In 2018, Inhofe announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted his request to fully fund the feasibility study for the Tulsa-West Tulsa levees project through supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and recovery funding. The feasibility study, authorized by Sen. Inhofe in 2016, is the critical first step to modernizing the aging levee system.

By including the feasibility study in the emergency supplemental, the Tulsa levees project has moved forward faster than if it had been included in the Corps annual work plan.

"The Tulsa levees protect hundreds of homes and businesses, as well as billions in critical infrastructure," Inhofe said. "We needed to work quickly to modernize and rehabilitate the levees, so I authored a provision in the 2016 water infrastructure bill that gave the project the tools to get started. I am pleased that the feasibility study was included in the emergency supplemental, which will allow faster implementation of the project than had it been funded through the annual work plan. I thank R.D. James and Mick Mulvaney for personally working with me on this issue and look forward to continuing to work with the Army Corps to ensure the project continues to advance and remain a top priority."

The supplemental also included additional operations and maintenance funding for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. *"The Army Corps of Engineers has shown that they are committed to making the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System a priority by including it in their annual work plan and in the supplemental appropriations. Currently, the MKARNS has a backlog of critical maintenance to its locks, dams and gates. This additional funding for its operations and maintenance will protect interstate commerce and enhance economic growth in Oklahoma and other adjacent states."*

The funding for the feasibility study was also praised by community leaders.

Todd Kilpatrick, Tulsa Levee Commissioner, stated: *"From the beginning, Sen. Inhofe has been proactive – working with Tulsa to ensure that our water infrastructure is sufficiently updated and modernized to protect against a significant flooding event. He authored the provision in the 2016 water infrastructure legislation that made the funding for the feasibility study announced today possible. I appreciate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for consistently working with the Tulsa community to make this a priority."*

Karen Keith, Tulsa County Commissioner, District 2, stated: *"Tulsa's levee system protects more than 10,000 citizens and some \$2 billion dollars of infrastructure including two refineries and chemical companies and a levee failure could have catastrophic environmental and economic impacts for the region. Sen. Inhofe has been a consistent, outspoken advocate for our water infrastructure – working with Tulsa to author provisions in legislation that make it possible for us to rehabilitate our aging levee system."*

Securing the funding for the feasibility study has been something Inhofe worked on extensively:

On December 9, 2016, the Senate authored S. 612, *the Water*

Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which passed with a strong bipartisan vote of 78-21 and included a number of provisions integral to Oklahoma. Sen. Inhofe included a provision in the *WIIN Act* that required the Corps to complete the feasibility study after inspections revealed that the Tulsa levees, originally built in the 1940s, were not compliant with federal standards.

On March 1, 2017, Sen. Inhofe questioned General Semonite at an EPW hearing on the Tulsa levees, saying in part:

Senator Inhofe: *General Semonite, in my hometown of Tulsa we have nearly 20 miles of levee, a system that was built by the Corps of Engineers back in the 1940s. We have about 10,000 people living within that. We have \$2 billion of infrastructure, including a refinery, a very large refinery. Seventy years old, they are desperate and in need of repair and upgrades. Congress authorized a feasibility study and expedited budget consideration in last year's WIIN Act. That was our effort. With the risk assessment taking over a year longer than promised, Tulsa is concerned about more delays in the lack of 46 the Corps prioritizing the project. It is my hope that we can get this done. Now, I am sure that you looked at that before, in preparing for this hearing. Our concern is these are old and there is not a week that goes by when I am back that this isn't called to my attention. What kind of a commitment can you make that we are going to get this thing started?*

General Semonite: *Thanks, Senator. You bring up a good point. When you talk about levees, I think right now we have about 15,000 miles of levees that we constructed, but the Corps actually only has about 2,500 of those that we actually maintain. So we have to be able to continue to reach out to find out what can we do to assist. Several people here have talked about everybody has to pull their share to be able to work side-by-side. On this particular one, this goes back to that flood risk management study and to be able to make sure that we can review this, get this thing done, and understand how we are going to be able to come through on that. I don't know exactly the details of where we are at on that, and I would like to have my staff come back to you on it.*

Senator Inhofe: *It would be a good idea. And I would like to ask that you personally look at this because it is something that should not have gone this long and it is critical.*

On November 9, 2017, Sens. Inhofe and Lankford sent letters to OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Douglas W. Lamont and Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite requesting that the Tulsa and West Tulsa Levee System feasibility study be prioritized in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY18 Work Plan and included as a new start in the FY 2019 budget request.

On December 6, 2017, Sen. Inhofe questioned R.D. James on the Tulsa levees during his confirmation hearing to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

In February of 2018, Sen. Inhofe spoke with OMB Director Mick Mulvaney to highlight the need for Tulsa-West Tulsa levees modernization to advance, given the fact the levees were classified as "high risk" by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Bills Senator Inhofe cosponsored in the 115th Congress in the EPW Committee:

S. 203, the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports (RPM) Act of 2017, introduced by Sen. Burr (R-N.C.), would amend the Clean Air Act to allow the modification of a vehicle's air emission controls if the vehicle is used solely for competition.

Inhofe spoke about the importance of the RPM Act and other deregulatory efforts in an EPW hearing highlighting Oklahoma's commitment to NASCAR and the racing industry:

Inhofe: "Oklahoma... We're really a NASCAR state. Now, Love's Travel Stops is the largest family-owned truck stop in America... They are in Oklahoma... They are the primary sponsor of the NASCAR number 34 car that is driven by Landon Cassill. We know the language the EPA has considered... it's made those involved in the racing industry nervous. Opponents of the RPM bill and the Obama EPA claim they aren't going to go after individuals or NASCAR and that there is nothing to worry about...but, the EPA's language makes it possible to do so, don't you think?"

Mr. Kersting replied: "The current EPA interpretation of the law renders any conversion activity illegal." Kersting also stated: "...A point was raised about this matter of there being a loophole or purpose or that the matter of intent, somehow in this bill, would create a new enforcement standard. I want to make very clear that the language of the RPM Act is actually drawn, it reflects language that is in this section of the Clean Air Act for other exemptions. The word purpose is in the law currently and, very importantly, the word intent is in the prohibition language currently... There is no loophole. Illegality is illegality... EPA has the enforcement authority to go after it and they do so successfully."



S. 263, the *Ozone Standards Implementation Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Capito (R-W.Va.), allows states implement the EPA's ozone standards more efficiently. Under the Clean Air Act's NAAQS program, the EPA sets standards for criteria pollutants, including ground-level ozone. EPA revised the standards in 2008 and 2015. However, EPA did not finalize the implementation regulations for the 2008 standard before changing the standard in 2015. States now face the prospect of simultaneously implementing two ozone standards. This bill would provide them the flexibility needed to phase implementation of the two standards.

S. 340, the *Sensible Environmental Protection Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Crapo (R-Idaho), would amend both the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)* and the *Clean Water Act* to prohibit the EPA or a state from requiring a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for a discharge of a pesticide if the discharge is already approved under FIFRA. Requiring a duplicative permits under both FIFRA and NPDES is wasteful and places additional costly burdens on our agricultural industry.

S. 826, the *Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver (WILD) Act*, introduced by Sen. Barrasso (R-Wyo.), passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent June 8, 2017. This bill would promote wildlife conservation, assist in the management of invasive species, help protect endangered species and reauthorize government conservation programs. It will also establish prize competitions to prevent illegal poaching and trafficking, manage invasive species, promote conservation, protect endangered wildlife and develop non-lethal methods to manage wildlife.

S. 839/S. 2461, the *Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Wicker (R-Miss.), would prohibit the EPA from requiring compliance with *Clean Air Act* rules concerning national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants with respect to brick and structural clay products manufacturing or clay ceramics manufacturing until judicial reviews of the rules are complete. Brick manufactures have made costly upgrades to comply with past regulations that were later overturned in court. This bill will ensure that the regulatory landscape is settled before the industry has to make additional costly investments.

S. 1447, the *Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA)* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Carper (D-Del.), passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent December 21, 2017. This bill would reauthorize the Diesel Emissions Reduction Program through fiscal year 2022 at current funding levels. The program is administered by the EPA and uses federal funding —through grants and rebates— to leverage state and other non-federal funding sources to finance the voluntary replacement or installation of retrofits on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines. Since its initial enactment, DERA has enjoyed overwhelming bi-partisan support. In 2010, the DERA reauthorization bill passed unanimously in the Senate and by voice vote in the House.

S. 1512, the *Transparency and Honesty in Energy Regulations Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Lankford (R-Okl.), would prohibit the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Interior, the Department of Transportation, and the Council on Environmental Quality from considering the social cost of carbon, methane, nitrous oxide, or greenhouse gas as part of any cost benefit analysis in the rule making process, unless a federal law is enacted authorizing such consideration. They may also consider those social costs if they use an estimate that: (1) complies with the requirements of the "Circular A-4" document of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), (2) uses only the discount rates specified in that document, (3) considers only the domestic costs and benefits of the activity, and (4) has been reviewed by the OMB for compliance with the circular A-4 document and consistency across federal agencies.

S. 1514, the *HELP for Wildlife Act*, introduced by Sen. Barrasso (R-Wyo.), would reauthorize and establish several government wildlife conservation programs and provides regulatory clarity for sportsmen. "Sportsmen are vital partners in conservation efforts and land-grant universities should have the same access to conservation resources as other entities. My amendment

will allow Oklahoma State University to use Pittman-Robertson funding to construct a shotgun range on their land. OSU was previously denied this funding because of their land's previous federal status," Inhofe said. "The *HELP for Wildlife Act* encourages conservation in a scientifically supported manner while protecting Oklahoma's sportsmen and our hunting heritage. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue advancing this bill."

S. 1756, the *Rebuild America Now Act*, introduced by Sen. Sullivan (R-Alaska), would fix our public-works and environmental review and permitting processes by expediting the completion of infrastructure projects, with a focus on streamlining the *National Environmental Protection Act* (NEPA). Often, the lengthy and complex NEPA review process is responsible for infrastructure project delays, which also increase construction costs.

S. 1794, the *Honest and Open New EPA Science Treatment (HONEST) Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Rounds (R-S.D.), would amend the *Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act* of 1978 to prohibit the EPA from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating a covered action unless all scientific and technical information relied on to support the action is the best available science, specifically identified, and publicly available in a manner sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction of research results. Covered actions are risk, exposure, or hazard assessments, criteria documents, standards, limitations, regulations, regulatory impact analyses, or guidance. Personally identifiable information, trade secrets, or commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential must be redacted prior to public availability.

S. 1857, A bill to establish a compliance deadline for May 15, 2023, for Step 2 emissions standards for new residential wood heaters, new residential hydronic heaters, and forced-air furnaces, introduced by Sen. Capito (R-W.Va.). This bill would delay by three years the date by which manufacturers, owners, and operators of new residential wood heaters, including residential hydronic heaters (wood-fired boilers) and forced-air furnaces, must comply with emission standards promulgated under the *Clean Air Act*. Technology has not caught up with the pace of government regulations and this bill would provide the industry the added flexibility needed to comply with new standards.

S. 2663, the *Agriculture Creates Real Employment (ACRE) Act*, introduced by Sen. Barrasso (R-Wyo.), would review the jurisdiction of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee as it relates to agriculture. More specifically, the draft legislation seeks to address concerns raised by many farmers and ranchers regarding permitting and environmental compliance policies within the Committee's jurisdiction. It contained Senator Fischer's S.2421, the *Fair Agricultural Reporting Method (FARM) Act*, Senator King's S.1206, a bill to ensure fair treatment in licensing requirements for the export of certain echinoderms, Senator Cotton's S.478, the *Hunter and Farmer Protection Act* of 2017, Senator Crapo's S.340, the *Sensible Environmental Protection Act*, Senator Grassley's S. 1343, the *Farmer Identity Protection Act*, Senator Capito's H.R. 5961, the *Farmer's Privacy Act* of 2012, Senator Cotton's S.219, the *Safeguard Aquaculture Farmers Act*, Senator Fischer's S.1207, the *Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship (FUELS) Act* and a section that reaffirms the respective authorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service (FWS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Wildlife Services division to issue appropriate permits in instances of depredation for: nuisance species, birds, and other predators.

S. 3009, the *Regulatory Certainty Act* of 2018, introduced by Sen. Capito (R-W.Va.), would amend the *Clean Water Act* to specify that the EPA must determine, in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that a discharge of dredged or fill materials into a disposal area will have certain unacceptable adverse effects before the EPA prohibits the specification, or restricts the use, of an area as a disposal site.

S. 3303, the *Water Quality Certification Improvement Act* of 2018, introduced by Sen. Barrasso (R-Wyo.), would amend section 401 of the *Clean Water Act* to clarify the appropriate scope of review for a water quality certification. It would also place procedural guardrails and requirements on states as they process requests for certification to prevent future abuses.





FOREIGN AFFAIRS

For the past two years, Inhofe has noticed a marked difference in how America is perceived in the international community. After President Obama’s apology tour and failed leadership, the United States is once again the undisputed leader of the free world.

As the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Inhofe has been a leader on many issues that impact foreign policy. Inhofe has been a champion of working to ensure that we are trusted by our allies and feared by our enemies.

Russia

On July 16, 2018, President Trump participated in a bilateral summit and joint press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Each president since President H.W. Bush has met with Russian leadership in the hope of a new beginning in the relationship with Russia. While Inhofe supported this meeting, he remained committed throughout the 115th Congress to countering Russia’s influence around the world through tough sanctions and supporting pro-Western forces in Ukraine.

Inhofe was a strong supporter of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s announcement on December 4, 2018 to put Russia on notice and formally withdraw the United States from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty if Russia refused to return to compliance. For too long, Vladimir Putin as openly flaunted the INF treaty and President Trump was right to demand accountability. The United States will no longer tolerate Russian deception at the expense of national security and the security of our allies. While we’ve lived up to our commitments under the treaty, Russia has violated it for years without repercussions—putting our troops, allies and infrastructure at greater risk. A treaty with only one side complying is unsustainable, and Russia has proven repeatedly that they should not be trusted to uphold its commitments. With Inhofe’s support, President Trump and Secretary Pompeo announced that on February 2, 2019, that the United States would suspend its obligations under the INF Treaty.

North Korea

In 2017, the regime in North Korea conducted 20 missile tests, substantially increasing the threat the tyrannical leader, Kim Jong Un poses to American families. This year was significant because it marked North Korea's first successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, on July 4. Subsequent tests of ICBMs, which can carry a nuclear warhead, clearly demonstrated that the regime has the ability to strike cities throughout the United States.

Inhofe spoke on the Senate floor following the most serious ICBM test to call for increased missile defense capabilities so the United States can protect American families and our allies from the threat posed by North Korea.

Inhofe has supported President Trump's hardline approach with North Korea and the sanctions that have been imposed to drive North Korea to the negotiating table.

The strong economic sanctions have been effective on North Korea and led to talks about complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization as well as the release of three illegally detained Americans. Following the release of Tony Kim, Kim Dong-chul, and Kim Hak-song, it was the first time since December 2009 that there was not an American citizen wrongfully held by the regime. This is a true reflection of the success of President Trump's campaign of maximum pressure on North Korea.

CAATSA

Inhofe was a vocal supporter of the *Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)*, tough legislation that strengthens sanctions against North Korea, Russia and Iran—countries that continuously seek to undermine the interests of the United States and our allies around the world. This legislation sent a clear message to North Korea that we would not accept their dangerous provocations of their missile tests. Further, this measure punished Iran and Russia, who continued to undermine U.S. interests by supporting terrorism and interfering with our democracy.

After passing Congress by overwhelming margins, CAATSA was signed by President Trump on August 2, 2017, as PL 115-44. Since then, it has been used to enact tough sanctions on each regime to support our overall foreign policy agenda.



Iran Deal

In 2015, the Obama administration entered a failed agreement with Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States) to limit the nuclear program of Iran. Inhofe voted against this agreement in September of 2015, and has been proud to work closely with President Trump in taking a strong stance against Iran so that the United States and our allies may remain safe and secure. Inhofe stood with President Trump when the United States pulled out of the flawed deal on May 8, 2018. Inhofe welcomed the announcement while visiting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Iran Nuclear Deal was a bad deal from the beginning that only paused Iran's nuclear development and did nothing to address their malign behavior in the region or their ballistic missile capabilities. By decertifying the Iran Deal, President Trump was putting the regime in Tehran on notice that they will be forced to confront the consequences their destabilizing regional actions.

After decertifying the deal failed to change Iran's malign behavior, Inhofe and President Trump stood up against Iran by pulling out of the Iran Deal and reinstating sanctions. The strong sanctions will show Iran that their support for terrorism and expansion of their ballistic missile capabilities are unacceptable. These sanctions have helped to reduce Iran's negative influence in the Middle East.

Iran

One of the flaws of Obama's Iran Deal was that it failed to address Iran's destabilizing actions outside of their nuclear program. Inhofe has repeatedly been in favor of sanctions against Iran that show their support for terrorism and expansion of the ballistic missile capabilities are unacceptable.

On February 3, 2018, Inhofe supported President Trump when he imposed a round of sanctions on Iran for violating the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR). Under the resolutions, Iran is not to undertake activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. After Iran, which has a history of breaking the rules, was caught running missile tests, Trump was right to impose sanctions. Inhofe is glad to stand with President Trump to take a strong stance against Iran so that the United States as well our friend and allies may remain safe and secure.

The Iran Nuclear Deal was a bad deal from the beginning that only paused Iran's nuclear development and did nothing to address their malign behavior in the region or their ballistic missile capabilities. By decertifying the Iran Deal, President Trump was putting the regime in Tehran on notice that they will be forced to confront the consequences their destabilizing regional actions.

Taiwan

As co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus, Inhofe has been a staunch advocate for advancing support for Taiwan, both nationally and internationally. Taiwan remains a close friend and ally of the United States and the two peoples are bound by shared interests and values – namely, our commitments to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and free enterprise.

On May 4, 2017, Inhofe was proud to be an original cosponsor of S.1051, the *Taiwan Travel Act*, which allows U.S. government officials to travel to Taiwan to meet their Taiwanese counterparts. The legislation also allows high-level Taiwanese officials to enter the United States to meet with U.S. officials and encouraged the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to conduct business in the United States.

Inhofe supported President Trump’s announcement of a planned \$1.3 billion arms sale to Taiwan in June of 2017. It was the first major sale of U.S. weapons to Taiwan during President Trump’s presidency. The sale included technical support for early warning radar, anti-radiation missiles, torpedoes and components for air defense missiles. This package was an important step toward fulfilling the United States’ commitment to Taiwan under the *Taiwan Relations Act (TRA)*.

In February of 2018, Inhofe led a delegation of members of the House and Senate to Taiwan where they met with President Tsai, Foreign Minister Lee and Defense Minister Shih-kuan. The delegation discussed a number of items of mutual interest, including missile defense, military cooperation and China’s aggressive position in the South China Sea.

After his return, he urged the President to sign the *Taiwan Travel Act* to ensure Taiwan has the ability to defend itself and remains a committed U.S. partner in the region. President Trump signed the *Taiwan Travel Act* into law on March 16, 2018, as Public Law 115-135.

On March 26, 2018, Inhofe joined with Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) on a letter to President Trump urging the administration to honor our commitments under the *Taiwan Relations Act* and support the procurement of the F-35 fighter or the F-16V to aid in Taiwan’s self-defense efforts in the region. These fighters will have a positive impact on Taiwan’s self-defense and would act as a necessary deterrent to China’s aggressive military posture across the Asia-Pacific region.

On Apr. 19, 2018, Inhofe sponsored S.2716, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization. Inhofe believes that Taiwan deserves a seat at the table in all international bodies, but especially those where they have shown substantial leadership. Inhofe has repeatedly stood up to China and actively worked to get Taiwan a seat at the table and to check China’s efforts to enact their expansionist agenda.

Inhofe authored and successfully included specific provision to the *John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act* for Fiscal Year 2019 (NDAA) that will provide support for Taiwan and other regional partners against the rise of China and Russia. To combat China’s growing aggression in the region and in the South China Sea in particular, Inhofe directed the Secretary of Defense to expand our military engagement with Taiwan and support expedited Foreign Military Sales (FMS).

Inhofe was also proud to celebrate the dedication for the new American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) compound. The AIT is a non-profit, private corporation established based on the *Taiwan Relations Act* that was signed into law April 10, 1979. With the opening of the new complex, AIT will be able to carry out its mission of maintaining a strong US-Taiwan partnership even more effectively and efficiently than before, including commercial services, agricultural sales, consular services and cultural exchanges.

Each year Inhofe also hosted a delegation from the Balkan Region for a conversation on security, counterterrorism and the role of NATO in Southeastern Europe. Time and time again, we've seen the strategic importance of the Balkan region. It faces many threats to U.S. interests including the rise of ISIS, Islamic extremism and Russian aggression. Because of this, Inhofe was proud to have an important conversation about the role of the United States and NATO's partnership in the region.

Eastern Europe

To support allies in Eastern Europe, like Ukraine, and enhance deterrence against an increasingly aggressive Russia, Inhofe directed the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to consider permanently stationing U.S. service members in Poland. Since President Trump was elected, Inhofe has encouraged an increase of support from the United States for Ukraine and other pro-western forces in Eastern Europe.

As Russia continues to escalate their dangerous and illegal aggression in Ukraine, Inhofe wanted to show a message of strength and support for our allies as they defend themselves and their democratic values against further encroachment by Russia. After visiting Ukraine twice in 2017, Inhofe, along with several Senate colleagues, sent a letter to President Trump encouraging a strengthening in dialogue between US and Ukrainian leadership, in advance of any high level meeting with Russia. Additionally, Inhofe sent a letter to President Trump urging him to provide lethal aid to Ukraine. Inhofe, a staunch supporter of Ukraine, authored language in both the FY18 (Section 1234 of Public Law 115-91) and FY19 (Section 1246 of Public Law 115-232) NDAA to provide lethal aid to Ukraine.

President Trump was the first president of both parties to finally authorize lethal aid, despite Congress specifically authorizing it since 2014. This authorization was thanks to a provision that Inhofe supported in the FY2018 NDAA that provided \$350 million for lethal defensive aid to Ukraine.

Also in the FY2018 NDAA, Inhofe supported provisions that allowed a consideration for imposing additional sanctions on Russia should Putin continue his Black Sea bullying. Inhofe further worked to include Section 1248 of the FY19 NDAA to increase the frequency and scale of multilateral exercises in the Black Sea with the participation of our allies such as Ukraine and Georgia.

In 2018, Inhofe led a delegation of Senate and House members to visit Poland, another Eastern European ally. Inhofe met with U.S. military personnel in the region to discuss the European Defense Initiative. He also met with Poland's military leadership to discuss the importance of the close U.S. and Polish partnership, foreign military sales, and intelligence sharing. Inhofe worked to include section 1280 to the FY19 NDAA that required the Secretary of Defense to report on the feasibility of permanent stationing of U.S. military forces in Poland. The report was scheduled to be delivered to Congress by March 1, 2019.

Each year Inhofe also hosted a delegation from the Balkan Region for a conversation on security, counterterrorism and the role of NATO in Southeastern Europe. Time and time again, we've seen the strategic importance of the Balkan region. It faces many threats to U.S. interests including the rise of ISIS, Islamic extremism and Russian aggression. Because of this, Inhofe was proud to have an important conversation about the role of the United States and NATO's partnership in the region.

Inhofe, along with Sen. Rounds, sent a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, to express the commitment to the people of the Western Sahara and their internationally-recognized right to self-determination. Many of these people have spent their entire lives in refugee camps. Inhofe urged Ambassador Haley to join him in his commitment to these people. By working together, they can reenergize negotiations and ensure the Sahrawi people's right to determine their own future through a democratic vote that includes the options of integration, autonomy and independence.

Asia

In February of 2018, Inhofe led a delegation of House and Senate members to South Korea and Japan. The delegation included Sen. Ernst and Sen. Sullivan of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Congressman Kelly of the House Armed Services Committee. While in South Korea, the delegation met with Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, Defense Minister Song Young-moo, General Brooks and United States Forces Korea leadership, and visited the Korean Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. In Japan, the delegation visited with Japanese Foreign Minister Kono, Lt General Martinez and United States Forces Japan and 7th Fleet leadership. In both countries, the delegation discussed the importance of missile defense and countering North Korea as well as China's growing influence in the region.

Africa

Inhofe has single-handedly led the effort to build a United States military presence in Africa to assist in the training of local governments to fight against terrorist organizations. He also worked on policy solutions that promote trade and energy security in order to lift people out of poverty.

In the FY18 NDAA, Inhofe authored language that requires the Secretary of Defense to provide a strategy to address Africa's Great Lakes sub-region that has been plagued by decades of instability and armed conflict resulting from porous borders, competition for resources, weak governance, territorial disputes and the continued growth of terrorist groups into the region.

The National Defense Strategy prioritizes the ongoing international mission against global terrorism. Inhofe was able to include provisions supporting our partners in the fight against ISIS. Inhofe has been an advocate of the mission of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and authored a provision that directs the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army and the Commander of AFRICOM to consider permanently assigning one of the Army's new Security Forces Assistance Brigades (SFAB) to AFRICOM to combat the increasing ISIS threat in the region.

On March 14, 2017, Inhofe, along with Sen. Rounds, sent a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, to express the commitment to the people of the Western Sahara and their internationally-recognized right to self-determination. Many of these people have spent their entire lives in refugee camps. Inhofe urged Ambassador Haley to join him in his commitment to these people. By working together, they can reenergize negotiations and ensure the Sahrawi people's right to determine their own future through a democratic vote that includes the options of integration, autonomy and independence.



Middle East

Inhofe included language encouraging the Department of Defense to expedite support to the Iraqi security forces, including the Kurdish community, to protect ethnic and religious communities against extremism in the Middle East.

In May 2018, Inhofe led a delegation of Senate and House members to Kuwait and Afghanistan. The delegation included Sen. Enzi, Sen. Boozman, Sen. Capito and Congressman Walberg. In Kuwait, the delegation met with Lieutenant General Funk and leadership from Operation Inherent Resolve where they discussed the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Syria. These discussions with our military leadership about counter-ISIS operations in Iraq and Syria clearly outlined the positive steps forward we've made in the region. Inhofe valued the opportunity to spend time with members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard who were serving in Afghanistan at the time and thank them for their service.

Pastor Brunson

Inhofe was a leading voice fighting to secure the release of Pastor Andrew Brunson, a law-abiding American citizen who had been a resident in Turkey since 1993 and had been detained for a year and a half by Turkish authorities. Inhofe worked extensively with both the executive and legislative branches of the American government to demonstrate resolve and ensure Pastor Brunson's safe return to the United States.

Inhofe included Section 1282 in the FY19 NDAA which included language to assess Turkey's future participation in the F-35 program. This provision limited Turkey's ability to acquire F-35 fighter jets and ultimately brought Turkey to the table to have the discussions that led to Pastor Brunson's release. Following his release, Inhofe welcomed Pastor Brunson to his office in Washington to hear his story firsthand and how he prevailed through such a difficult period.





Israel

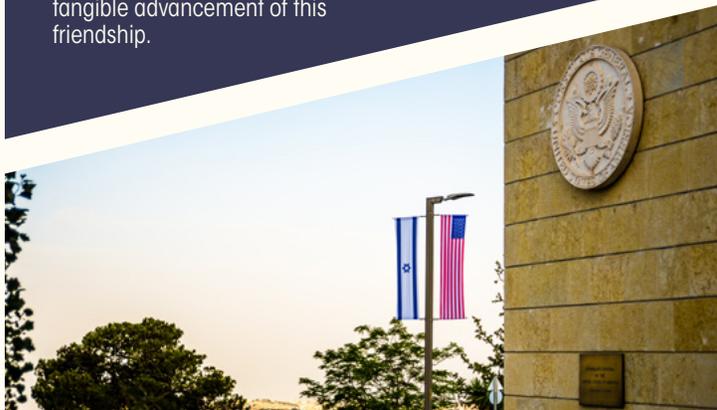
Inhofe is often considered one of the most pro-Israel members of the Senate and each Congress he works to highlight the importance of the historic relationship. This Congress was especially significant because 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of U.S.-diplomatic relations.

Inhofe supported the confirmation of David Friedman to serve as the new United States Ambassador to Israel. Protecting and advancing the vital relationship between the United States and Israel is a critical responsibility. Ambassador Friedman, as President Trump's representative, will work to strengthen our friendship and deepen our ties, ensuring the democracies of Israel and the United States thrive. Friedman will also play a key role in bringing stability to the region and to counter Iran's nuclear threats. He is the right man for the job.

Over twenty years ago, Inhofe called for the relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to be moved to Jerusalem and was an original cosponsor of the *Jerusalem Embassy Act* of 1995. Over twenty years after Inhofe's original request and after presidents of both parties failed to enact the move, Trump began the process to move our embassy to the Holy City. Not since supporting the creation of Israel in 1947, has the United States done more to uphold a vital ally.

U.S. Embassy Move

The move of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem was supported by Inhofe's strong and continued advocacy. Inhofe's efforts finally were rewarded when he had the opportunity to visit the new embassy and meet with United States Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman. The visit from Inhofe highlighted how our strategic partnership with Israel advances American interests and American values. With the leadership of President Trump, America's commitment to Israel has never been stronger. Israel is a strong and democratic ally in a difficult region and Inhofe was proud to see the tangible advancement of this friendship.



To further support Israel, Inhofe cosponsored S.2497, the *United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act* of 2018, which extended security assistance to Israel. Specifically, this legislation extends foreign military financing assistance to Israel and provides our strategic and long-standing ally with the resources and aid it needs in such an uncertain region of the world.

In February of 2018, Inhofe led the full Senate in urging the Department of Homeland Security to expedite Israel's full membership in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Global Entry Program. In a letter written to Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, Senator Inhofe emphasized that Israel's full membership and reciprocal privileges for Americans would grow the U.S. economy and strengthen national security. Because of Inhofe's support, the Israeli government is clear about what steps need to be taken to advance these efforts.

NATO

In March of 2017, Inhofe voted in favor of adding Montenegro to NATO. NATO plays a vital role in maintaining security and stability throughout Europe. Including Montenegro in NATO will encourage its integration within the region and strengthen the alliance. NATO Commander Gen. Scaparrotti stated that Montenegro's inclusion was 'absolutely critical' and 'that failure to do so could set back membership talks for other candidate nations. Inhofe agreed and fully support adding Montenegro to the organization.

Furthermore, Inhofe has supported President Trump's work to increase burden sharing among our NATO allies. Despite a NATO-wide commitment in 2014 to increase defense spending, over half of the allies weren't meeting their targets, putting a greater burden on the United States. To support President Trump's commitment to burden sharing, Inhofe cosponsored S.Res.570 – A resolution emphasizing the importance of meeting NATO spending commitments.

Like President Trump, Inhofe believes that the United States' commitment to NATO is the foundation of transatlantic security and defense—especially as we face an increasingly aggressive Russia. However, Inhofe wants NATO to be a partnership so he called on our allies to finance, equip and train their militaries to fulfill their national security interests and fulfill defense spending commitments that were agreed upon at the 2014 Wales Summit. As a result, NATO Secretary General Jans Stoltenberg has announced that allies in Europe and Canada will have increased their defense spending by \$100 billion before the end of 2019.





HEALTH CARE

As Inhofe continues to hear stories from families who have been negatively impacted by Obamacare, he remains committed to repealing and replacing it with a healthcare system that actually works for our country. Oklahoma has been among the worst states hit by Obamacare. Individuals lost their health plans and many families have seen their hard-earned dollars come up short when it comes to affording their skyrocketing healthcare premiums and deductibles. Between 2013 and 2017, average premiums for individual health insurance plans doubled, and Oklahomans saw an even steeper average increase in a shorter time frame—between 2013 and 2016, premiums rose by 78 percent.

Inhofe paved the way for a critical vote to repeal Obamacare by voting for S.Con.Res.3, a budget resolution for fiscal year 2017. The vote teed Republicans up to repeal the *Affordable Care Act* and defund Planned Parenthood using the budget reconciliation mechanism. The budget resolution passed the Senate by a vote of 51-48.

He also supported the Republican efforts to replace Obamacare—voting for efforts that would have provided relief to Oklahomans struggling with increasing premiums. While disappointed that the effort of a broad repeal came up short, he remains committed to repealing and replacing it.

In 2017, Oklahoma was at risk of losing significant federal funding that goes to support Oklahoma’s medical schools which treat almost a quarter of Oklahoma’s Medicaid population. Inhofe stepped up to ensure Oklahoma’s most vulnerable were not left without access to care. During the course of 2017 and 2018, Inhofe worked alongside Congressman Tom Cole (OK-4) to secure an agreement that prevented Oklahoma’s medical schools and Medicaid population from losing vital funding. Inhofe and Cole also worked to include a new grant program of \$25 million within the enacted Fiscal Year 2019 Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations bill that benefits state medical schools that serve a sizable Medicaid population, like Oklahoma’s medical schools.

“Senator Inhofe and the entire Oklahoma delegation have been instrumental in leading and facilitating the conversation between CMS and the state’s medical schools on the request to seek an extension of our long-standing program approval. He’s worked tirelessly over the last 14 months fighting for vulnerable Oklahomans in rural and underserved areas of our state. We owe him a debt of gratitude for making sure that CMS understands the vital role that this program plays in helping Oklahomans continue to have access to high quality healthcare services provided by OSU and OU trained physicians.” – **Kayse Shrum, D.O., President of OSU Center for Health Sciences and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Inhofe also was a leader in addressing the opioid crisis, working with the President to treat the opioid epidemic as a public health emergency and giving states greater tools and a more comprehensive approach to curbing prescription drug abuse. Inhofe proudly supported H.R.6 – *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act*, also known as the “Opioid Package”, that is believed to be the most comprehensive piece of federal legislation to overhaul addiction treatment policies in American history. This landmark legislation, which became PL 115-271, contains many important provisions, including expanding addiction medical education and training resources for healthcare providers, ensuring pain prevention alternatives to opioids are researched, and included a provision coauthored by Inhofe aimed at combatting China’s longtime practice of sending illicit opioids, like fentanyl, undetected to the U.S., among other provisions.

In 2018, Inhofe worked across party lines with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) to introduce S.3465 – *CT Colonography Screening for Colorectal Cancer Act* which would ensure CT (virtual) Colonography (CTC) is covered by Medicare for colorectal cancer screening. While commercial insurance carriers in 31 states and the District of Columbia reimburse for virtual colonoscopy procedures, Medicare currently does not. Given colorectal cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths in America, this bill would rightly expand access to all colorectal cancer screenings.

“Senator Inhofe has been a great friend to Oklahoma State University over the years. He is an advocate of Oklahoma higher education in our nation’s capital. I greatly appreciate his tremendous efforts in ensuring that CMS approves our program funding request.” – **Burns Hargis, president of Oklahoma State University**

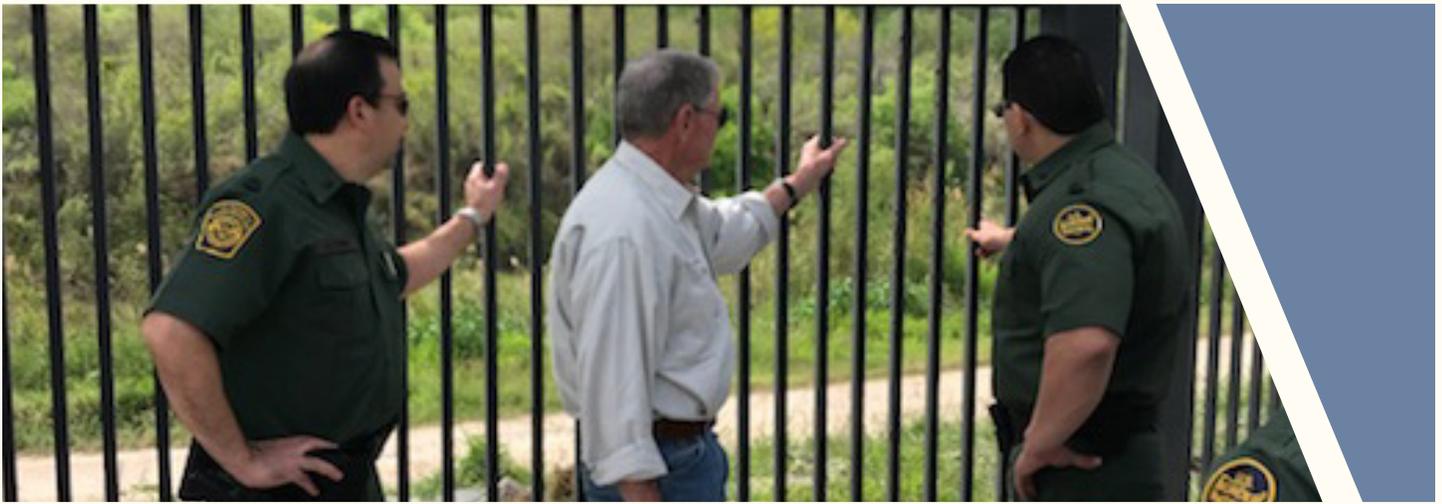


Inhofe speaks to Cherokee Nation about steps he’s taking to improve health care facilities

Inhofe sponsored the following legislation impacting health care:

- ▶ **S.2076 – BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act:** This bill establishes Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice intended to improve Alzheimer’s disease and caregiving education and state grant opportunities for Alzheimer’s disease prevention and management. The Senate passed this bill on December 12, 2018, and President Trump signed it into law as P.L. 115-406 on December 31, 2018.
- ▶ **S.2956 – Patients First Act:** Would direct the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund ethical forms of stem cell research that do not incentivize destruction of human embryos. It also would reverse Obama-era Executive Orders that gave NIH and the Department and Health and Human Services authority to use human stem cells, including embryonic stem cells, in research.
- ▶ **S.108 – Medical Device Access and Innovation Protection Act:** Amends Internal Revenue Code to repeal the excise tax on the sale of a medical device by the manufacturer, producer or importer. Legislative efforts successfully delayed this tax through 2022.
- ▶ **S.3057 – STOP Act of 2018:** Requires foreign postal operators to provide advanced electronic data for all USPS packages imported into the U.S. that is already required of private mail carriers. This bill ensures narcotics like fentanyl and other drugs are better detected and removed from circulation and was enacted as part of the Opioid Package (P.L. 115-271) on October 24, 2018.
- ▶ **S.3768 – Critical Access Hospital Relief Act:** This bill removes the arbitrary 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient Critical Access Hospital (CAH) services. Under current law, CMS requires a physician certify in writing for each admission to a CAH that a Medicare patient is reasonably expected to be discharged or transferred within 96 hours of admission.
- ▶ **S.3063 – Health Insurance Tax Relief Act:** Delays the imposition of the Obamacare tax on health insurance providers until after 2020. This tax was suspended through 2019.
- ▶ **S.781 – Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act:** Amends the *Public Health Service Act* to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster.
- ▶ **S.693 – Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act:** Amends the *Public Health Service Act* to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.
- ▶ **S.260 – Protecting Seniors’ Access to Medicare Act:** Amends Obamacare to terminate the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) also referred to as “death panels”. IPABs never became operational but were permanently repealed through the *Bipartisan Budget Act* of 2018, which President Trump signed into P.L. 115-123 on February 9 of that year.
- ▶ **S.58 – Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act:** Repeals Obamacare’s “Cadillac Tax” which is a 40% excise tax on all high-cost employer sponsored health insurance plans. The Cadillac Tax is delayed until 2022.
- ▶ **S.Res.322 – A resolution Supporting the goals and ideals of the American Diabetes Month:** Established November 2017 as “American Diabetes Month” to bring awareness to diabetes education, prevention and treatment options.





IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE WALL

Inhofe has long believed that our existing immigration laws need to be enforced, our borders secured, and dangerous criminal aliens kept off our streets. He has stood by President Trump’s call for a border wall and common sense reforms to our immigration laws that ensure we continue to open our arms to those who seek to make a better life in America through legal means.

As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Inhofe knows that border security is national security. This is why he authored S.3713, *The WALL Act* of 2018, which would provide at least \$25 billion for a wall on the southern border and identifies specific reforms to our tax and welfare laws to fully fund the construction. By requiring a work-authorized Social Security Number (SSN) to claim refundable tax credits and by requiring citizenship verification to apply for welfare programs, this legislation would ensure that only those who are legally present and eligible to work in the United States receive benefits. Inhofe’s legislation is the only bill that fully pays for the \$25 billion needed to build the wall.

Inhofe also authored S.3372, the *Asylum Abuse Reduction Act* to address immigration loopholes ensuring the integrity of the asylum process. President Obama’s policy of “catch and release” incentivized families to cross our borders illegally and claim asylum once caught since they knew they would then be shortly released into the country pending a court date. The result? The United States experienced a 234 percent increase in asylum applications from 2014 to 2016, generating a backlog in our immigration courts and that number is expected to increase.

The *Asylum Abuse Reduction Act* would require migrants declare asylum at our embassies or consulates in Mexico or Canada for their initial screening before being allowed to enter the United States. Since roughly 70 percent of deportation orders are issued because an alien has failed to appear for court, this bill would also create a criminal bench warrant failure to appear for immigration court ensuring their information is entered into police databases. Finally, because of Supreme Court cases that prevent the government from holding children that cross illegally for more than 20 days, this bill establishes a pilot program that would allow families to be released to a qualified organization, contracted with the federal government, to ensure migrants comply with all immigration proceedings.

On December 20, 2018, President Trump took executive action to enact Inhofe’s bill, working with the Mexican government to accept and house migrants while they sought asylum.

Inhofe introduced S.36, the *Keep Our Communities Safe Act* of 2017. This bill allows for the detention period of criminal aliens that have not been deported to be renewed so that they can be kept in custody until deportation can be arranged. In 2014 alone, President Obama released 30,500 criminal immigrants with a combined 78,000 convictions back into our communities. Inhofe’s legislation closes this loophole, which would keep dangerous criminals out of our communities.

A strong advocate for legal immigration, Inhofe believes that new immigrants are better equipped to contribute to our nation when they are able to speak English. This is why he continues to be the lead sponsor of S.678, the *English Language Unity Act*, which would make English the official language of the United States.

Inhofe also cosponsored the following bills to address criminal aliens that pose a danger to our communities:

- ▶ **S.45, Kate's Law:** Amends the *Immigration and Nationality Act* by imposing a mandatory minimum sentence of five years for any alien who unlawfully reenters the United States after being removed.
- ▶ **S.37, Sarah's Law:** Amends the mandatory detention provisions of the *Immigration and Nationality Act* that require the federal government to take custody of anyone who entered the country illegally, violated the terms of their immigration status or had their visa revoked and is thereafter charged with a crime resulting in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. The legislation also requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to make reasonable efforts to identify and provide relevant information to the crime victims or their families.
- ▶ **S.51, Taking Action Against Drunk Drivers Act:** Makes habitual alien drunk drivers inadmissible and removable and requires the detention of any illegal alien who has been charged with driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated
- ▶ **S.52, A bill to make aliens associated with a criminal gang inadmissible, deportable and ineligible for various forms of relief:** Makes aliens associated with a criminal gang inadmissible for entry into the United States, deportable, and ineligible for various forms of relief from the federal government.
- ▶ **S.87, Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act:** Would withhold certain non-law enforcement federal grant funds from "sanctuary cities" — jurisdictions that forbid their local law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration officials. The amendment also addresses court decisions that may leave local police and municipalities liable when they assist the Department of Homeland Security when the department has made an error.
- ▶ **S. 3093, Keep Families Together and Enforce the Law Act:** Introduced by Sen. Tillis (R-N.C.), it would keep families together while ensuring the integrity of our nation's immigration laws. The legislation requires that children and their parents remain together during their immigration-related legal proceedings.
- ▶ **S. 3091, Protect Kids and Parents Act:** Introduced by Sen. Cruz (R-TX), would mandate that illegal immigrant families must be kept together; provides for exceptions that allow a child to be removed from custody in specific circumstances, including cases involving aggravated criminal conduct or threat of harm to the children (such as abuse of neglect by the parent or evidence that the child is a victim of human trafficking). The bill would provide for expedited processing and review of the cases of individuals who are here with children, so that – within 14 days – those who meet the legal standards to stay will not be allowed to stay and those who do not will be returned to their home countries with their families. This bill would double the number of federal immigration judges to process claims of individuals who are here with children, as well as authorize new family shelters so children remain with their parents while their parents' claims are being processed.





JUDICIARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Inhofe has long believed one of the most important roles of the Senate is to confirm conservative, constitutional federal judges. Throughout the 115th Congress, the Senate has worked to cut through Democrat obstruction and remake the judiciary. This focus on confirming qualified judges will have a positive impact on the Constitution and conservative values for decades to come.

Inhofe also strongly supported the nomination and confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch and Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

The selection of Neil Gorsuch to fill the late Antonin Scalia's seat was an excellent choice to put a smart, thoughtful, constitutional conservative on the bench. Gorsuch's work as a judge on the Denver-based Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals displayed a judicial philosophy worthy of the highest Court. He also has a well-documented history of standing up for religious freedom, notably penning the opinion in support of religious liberty in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*.

Inhofe also supported the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to fill the seat vacated by Justice Kennedy's retirement—an outstanding choice for the Supreme Court. Throughout his experience on the bench, Judge Kavanaugh showed a clear commitment to upholding the Constitution and respecting judicial restraint. He has a strong history of decisions that respect religious liberty and the Second Amendment and has been a leader in ensuring the court respects the limit of executive authority, especially as it relates to environmental regulations.



Inhofe cosponsored the following legislation to support law enforcement and criminal justice:

- ▶ **S. 1311**, the *Abolish Human Trafficking Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Cornyn (R-Texas), was signed into law by President Trump on December 21, 2018 as PL 115-392. This law sets forth a variety of measures to address the prevention and punishment of human trafficking and to assist trafficking victims. Included among these are provisions concerning:
 - restitution for victims;
 - funding of investigations of offenses relating to sexual abuse of children;
 - grants to states and localities and other entities for victim service assistance;
 - training of health, victim service, and federal law enforcement personnel, including through the use of a victim screening protocol by the Department of Homeland Security;
 - penalties imposed for slavery offenses, sex trafficking of children, and repeat convictions for transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes;
 - travel for the purpose of engaging in any illicit sexual conduct;
 - designation of additional Department of Justice resources for prosecution and service coordination;
 - penalties for offenses involving organized human trafficking, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or transportation for prostitution or any illegal sexual activity; and
 - studies of the physical and psychological effects of serious harm to victims.
- ▶ **S. 30**, the *Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Feinstein (D-Calif.), would amend the federal criminal code to 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 statute of limitations is 10 years from the date the cause of action arose. This bill sets a 10-year statute of limitations from the date the victim discovers the offense or injury. Additionally, it extends the statute of limitations for a minor victim of a federal sex offense to file a civil action to 10 years (currently three years) from the date such individual reaches age 18.
- ▶ **S. 1084**, the *Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act* of 2017, introduced by Sen. Toomey (R-Pa.), would amend the federal criminal code to require the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to allow a correctional officer at a federal prison or correctional institution to: (1) store firearms on BOP premises in a secure storage area outside the security perimeter of the institution or in a vehicle lockbox, and (2) carry a concealed firearm on BOP premises outside the security perimeter of the institution.
- ▶ **S. 1085**, the *Thin Blue Line Act*, introduced by Sen. Toomey (R-Pa.), would amend the federal criminal code to expand the list of statutory aggravating factors in death penalty determinations to also include killing or targeting a law enforcement officer, firefighter or other first responder.





Inhofe has always believed there is no more important mission than standing for the sanctity of human life. The Declaration of Independence guarantees each American the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” He believes that an unborn child is a life, and as such, shall be guaranteed the right to life. Denying life to the unborn conflicts with these stated protections and undermines the value of life in our society.

In recognition for Inhofe’s strong views and perfect voting record on faith, family values, protecting the rights of the unborn and religious freedom, he was awarded the “True Blue Award” from the Family Research Council.

Family Research Council Action President Tony Perkins stated:

“We thank Sen. Inhofe for consistently voting to defend and advance faith, family and freedom. As a ‘True Blue Member’ he voted 100 percent on FRC Action’s Scorecard including votes to repeal and replace Obamacare, deliver long-needed tax cuts that are already providing much needed relief to working families, stand for religious liberty, end the forced partnership between taxpayers and Planned Parenthood, and protect pain capable babies.

“Sen. Inhofe deserves praise for his unwavering commitment to stand for life, family, marriage, and religious liberty. Oklahomans should be encouraged to know that they have a Member of Congress such as Sen. Inhofe who has come alongside other members and our president to begin the work of rebuilding our nation, and protecting the very values that made America great,” concluded Perkins.

Inhofe was also presented the Paul Weyrich Enduring Impact Award, the highest award from the Weyrich Lunch and Coalitions for America in recognition of his conservative leadership and steadfast principles.

Inhofe cosponsored the following pro-life bills:

- ▶ **S. 2420**, *Child Tax Credit for Pregnant Moms Act*, introduced by Sen. Daines (R-Mont.), would establish a tax credit supporting families and pregnant mothers with the many costs that accompany caring and planning for the care of a newborn baby. The costs associated with parenting do not begin at birth, and this legislation is the way we can help families planning for the care of a newborn.
- ▶ **S. 184**, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Insurance Full Disclosure Act*, introduced by Sen. Wicker (R-Miss.), would forbid the use of federal money for abortions, and would require insurance companies to fully disclose abortion coverage and surcharges in Obamacare plans.
- ▶ **S. 231**, the *Life at Conception Act*, introduced by Sen. Paul (R-Ky.), recognizes that life begins at conception.
- ▶ **S. 224**, the *Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act*, introduced by Sen. Rubio (R-Fl.). This bill would prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.
- ▶ **S. 220**, the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act*, introduced by Sen. Sasse (R-Neb.), would require health practitioners to provide the same care for a child born alive after an abortion or attempted abortion as would be offered to any other child of the same gestational age that is born alive. On February 25, 2019, this bill received a vote but failed to achieve the necessary 60-vote threshold and failed 53-44.
- ▶ **S. 2311**, the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, introduced by Sen. Graham (R-S.C.) would prohibit abortions from being performed on unborn babies who are at or older than 20 weeks gestation which science has confirmed is when babies can feel pain. On January 29, 2018, this bill received a vote but failed to achieve the necessary 60-vote threshold and failed 51-46.
- ▶ **S. 301**, the *Conscience Protection Act of 2017*, introduced by Sen. Lankford (R-Okla.), would prevent any federal, state, or local government from penalizing or discriminating against a health care provider (physicians, nurses, insurance plans, etc.) if the provider does not participate in abortions.



“Inhofe also took steps to defund Planned Parenthood by voting for budget resolutions that stripped funding from the nation’s leading abortion provider and praised President Trump for being the most pro-life president...”

Inhofe also took action to defund Planned Parenthood by voting to overturn Obama-era regulations that tried to prevent states from withholding money from abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood.

“The passage of this CRA is a clear and important step in protecting the rights of the unborn,” Inhofe said. “Moreover, this CRA reinforces states’ rights that the Obama administration attempted to strip via midnight rule. For decades, the HHS Title X grant program has provided states with funding to distribute to health care providers as they best see fit while prohibiting funds from being given to programs that consider abortion a form of family planning. I am pleased to walk back language that would weaken a state’s ability to prioritize the programs that work for their citizens, including restricting taxpayer funds to abortion providers.”

Tony Lauinger, state chairman of Oklahomans For Life, praised the passage of H. J. Res. 43.

“The individual states are best able to determine the most suitable entities for implementing the Title X program within their own states. We very much appreciate Senator Inhofe’s support for protecting the right of the states to make these decisions.”

Inhofe also took steps to defund Planned Parenthood by voting for budget resolutions that stripped funding from the nation’s leading abortion provider and praised President Trump for being the most pro-life president for reinstating the Mexico City policy, which would prohibit NGOs from receiving federal funding if they perform or promote abortion.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Inhofe was recognized for his commitment to Christ, love for country and determination for truth and righteousness in government with the Distinguished Christian Statesman Award from the D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Leadership.

In 2017, Inhofe joined Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) in introducing the *Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act*, legislation that would allow child welfare charities to operate without fear of discrimination based on religious beliefs. For decades, adoption and foster care providers—secular, government-operated and faith-based—have worked side-by-side to serve infants, expectant mothers, adoptive and foster families, children, teens, and families that are in need of help. Unfortunately, some states prevent faith-based organizations from providing welfare services because of their religious beliefs.

Faith-based institutions often play a vital role in the adoption process, whether by providing counseling or valuable resources. As long as there are children in need of assistance or a family, Inhofe will fight to ensure that all organizations that want to help can. The *Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act* will protect the services faith-based groups provide throughout the nation.

Inhofe also cosponsored S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution affirming the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and protected for all people of the United States under the Constitution of the United States, and recognizing the 231st anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. This resolution was introduced by Sen. Daines (R-Mont).



TAXES

“This is a Regan Tax Cut”

Inhofe has been a long-time advocate for a simple, fair tax code that will foster economic growth, allow families to keep more of their hard-earned money and make it easier for Oklahoma’s businesses to grow and hire more hard-working people. On December 19, 2018, the Senate passed the first comprehensive tax reform legislation in 30 years—legislation that supports Inhofe’s long-standing priorities.

This legislation substantially reforms the U.S. tax code to cut taxes for the typical American family by an average of \$2,000 each year. It also unlocks the economic potential of the United States economy by lowering taxes on businesses—especially small businesses. Additionally it recognizes the important role of key industries in Oklahoma that create jobs and invest in our state, such as the oil and gas industry, by protecting percentage depletion and intangible drilling cost provisions.

Because of historic tax reform, Congress has made doing businesses in the United States competitive again, so companies are no longer encouraged to move American jobs overseas. Economists from around the country predict this bill will further increase our nation’s GDP by a full percentage point—which will lead to \$2.9 trillion in revenue that will address the deficit. President Trump is already growing the economy by cutting regulations—this tax cut will only do more to drive the engine of the American economy to new heights and benefit hardworking families.

Death Tax Repeal

Inhofe continues to be a strong advocate for the full repeal of the death tax. He is an original cosponsor of S. 205, legislation that would permanently repeal the federal estate tax, more commonly known as the death tax. The *Death Tax Repeal Act* of 2017 would finally end this purely punitive tax that has the potential to hit family farms, ranches and small businesses as the result of the owner’s death. This legislation would prevent the government from double-dipping into the pockets of hard-working Americans.

Inhofe also cosponsored an amendment offered during Senate consideration of the tax reform bill that would have permanently repealed the death tax. While a full repeal of the death tax was not included, Inhofe was proud to see that tax reform doubled the current exemption to the Death Tax until 2026. As a result, countless Oklahoma farmers, ranchers, and small business owners will be able to keep the legacy they have built in their families, and not sell a portion or all of their business in double taxation to the federal government. This provision was included as Section 11061 of Public Law 115-94.



National and Oklahoma Economic Impact

Tax reform has powered substantial national economic growth in 2018. As of December 2018, the United States has historically low unemployment of 3.9 percent. Furthermore, the first two years of the Trump Administration have resulted in record economic growth of 3.2 percent. Under President Obama, economic growth was an anemic 1.5 percent.

Oklahomans across the state have benefited from tax reform. In December 2017, Oklahoma’s unemployment was 4.2 percent. By December 2018, Oklahoma’s unemployment had fallen to 3.2 percent, and our state added 25,500 jobs. As a direct result of tax reform, more than 50 companies in Oklahoma have given 66,700 Oklahomans bonuses worth a total of \$43.9 million. This kind of investment by Oklahoma companies in their Oklahoma workforce was unimaginable two years ago.

Key Provisions of Tax Reform:

- ▶ Doubles the standard deduction to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for married couples
- ▶ Increases the child tax credit to \$2,000 and substantially lifts existing income caps
- ▶ Maintains the mortgage interest deduction and the adoption tax credit, a tax credit that Inhofe worked to preserve
- ▶ Doubles the exemption on the death tax
- ▶ Permanently lowers the corporate tax rate, giving businesses the opportunity to plan far into the future and strategically grow investments in our communities
- ▶ Allows for full business expensing for five years

Inhofe Sponsored Provisions included in the Historic Tax Cut for the American People

- ▶ **Inhofe Amdt 1736 - Including trust businesses for pass through deduction.** The Senate-passed version of tax reform provided a 23 percent deduction for businesses structured as pass through entities, but it excluded those entities organized with trusts. This would have a negative impact on family owned businesses in Oklahoma. Inhofe authored Amendment #1736 so all businesses organized as pass through entities will be treated the same. This provision was included as Section 11011 of Public Law 115-97.
- ▶ **Inhofe Amdt 1602 – Increasing the amount of interest that can be deducted by businesses.** Both the House and Senate passed versions of tax reform that limited the amount of interest that can be deducted by businesses. The House limited the amount to 30 percent of a businesses' annual earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. The Senate limited to 30 percent of a businesses' annual earnings before only interest and taxes, a significantly lower number. The Senate language would have resulted in a less favorable tax position for many Oklahoma companies. Inhofe authored Amendment #1601 so that the Senate bill would mirror the House. The final tax reform bill signed into law incorporated this amendment for the first four years of the bill. This provision was included as Section 13301 of Public Law 115-97.
- ▶ **Inhofe Amdt 1824 – Qualifying engineering and architecture firms as small businesses.** Both the House and Senate passed versions of tax reform that prevented engineering and architecture firms from being eligible for small business tax cuts. This failed to recognize the close connection between these firms and the deployment of capital investment needed to ensure America has a 21st century transportation system to go with its 21st century economy. Inhofe authored Amendment #1824 so engineering and architecture firms will be eligible for small business tax cuts. This provision was included as Section 11011 of Public Law 115-97.



Because of Inhofe's work to support lower taxes and economic freedom, he was recognized with the "Taxpayers' Friend Award" by the National Taxpayers Union.

"Only lawmakers with a voting record that is the best-of-the-best will earn NTU's Taxpayers' Friend Award," said Pete Sepp, president of NTU. "Sen. Inhofe has demonstrated a tireless commitment to supporting taxpayers' interests in Washington, and a dedication to solving the government's tax-and-spend problems with action rather than just words. Fixing America's budget problems takes hard work, and Sen. Inhofe has been doing that work every single day."

Support for Inhofe's leadership on Tax Reform:

- ▶ "I commend Senator Inhofe for his leadership to ensure that family-owned businesses will benefit from comprehensive tax reform. Because Senator Inhofe's tireless advocacy, our company will continue to be able to invest in the economy and grow jobs in communities across the United States," said Frank Love, Co-CEO of Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores. "American family owned businesses are key drivers of robust and sustained economic opportunity in communities throughout the United States and should be treated equally under the new tax code."
- ▶ "I appreciate efforts by Senator Inhofe to ensure that family-owned businesses will see a positive impact from comprehensive tax reform," said Jeff Records, MidFirst Bank's Chief Executive Officer. "Community banks, like MidFirst Bank, serve as anchors in our communities, providing economic opportunity for families and small to mid-size businesses across Oklahoma and the other markets we serve. Thanks to Senator Inhofe's tireless advocacy, our family-owned company will continue to be able to maximize our support of community investment and in turn grow the nation's economy."
- ▶ "We greatly appreciate Senator Inhofe's work to ensure that tax reform will encourage more economic growth and investment that will benefit the citizens of Oklahoma," said Alan S. Armstrong, CEO of Williams Companies. "The Williams Company strongly supports this legislation and urges its rapid enactment into law."
- ▶ "Many construction firms utilize trust ownership for a variety of reasons, such as estate and succession planning, and asset protection," said Stephen E. Sandherr, chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America. "Excluding trusts from receiving the pass-through deduction would have resulted in increased shareholder taxes at many construction firms, interrupted ownership arrangements, or forced changes in business entities. AGC appreciates Senator Inhofe's leadership on ensuring that pass-through businesses with trust owners fully benefit from tax reform under the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*."
- ▶ "I appreciate Sen. Inhofe's efforts during the consideration of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* to ensure the Oklahoma Farm Bureau is continued to be treated as a tax-exempt organization," said Rodd Moesel, President of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. "Each year, the Farm Bureau serves Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers by providing important services to improve the lives of rural Oklahomans. Our mission would have been directly jeopardized if any changes to our tax status had been contemplated in this important legislation. Because of his leadership, agriculture will continue to be a vital component of our state's economy."

Other Tax Legislation Cosponsored by Senator Inhofe:

- ▶ **S. 407, Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy Act**
 - This bill would make permanent the RR Track Maintenance Tax Credit for qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures incurred by small, family owned / operated shortline railroads. As this railroads do not have access to the debt and equity markets, they often directly bear the capital costs of maintaining their lines, many of which service farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.
- ▶ **S. 2674, Percentage Depletion for Marginal Properties**
 - This legislation would revive the Net Income Limitation Suspension for Percentage Depletion on Marginal Wells. The United States must encourage the continued production of marginal wells in order to achieve energy dominance. This bill will give small, family-oriented energy producers the predictability and certainty they require to invest in the future of our domestic energy resources.
- ▶ **S. 2675, Accelerated Depreciation of Investment on Indian Lands**
 - This provision encourages the development of business in Oklahoma by providing businesses that purchase capital equipment for use on former or current Indian lands. Because of Oklahoma's rich Native American heritage, this provision applies to businesses in the vast majority of the state and encourages greater local investment, which strengthens and diversifies the economies of communities across the State that are often in rural and impoverished areas.
 - "OGE Energy is appreciative of Senator James Inhofe for his continued thoughtful leadership in introducing legislation which would make permanent the currently temporary and expiring federal tax code provision allowing for accelerated depreciation of energy property located on Indian lands," said Brian Alford, Director of Public Affairs, OGE Energy Corporation. "The legislation would bring greater incentive and needed predictability to investment decisions for entities considering capital projects on Indian lands. Just as it would benefit all states with significant tribal communities and Indian lands, such capital investment will benefit both Native Americans in Oklahoma and the state's economy in general—which clearly benefits all Oklahomans—by generating increased employment opportunities and economic development across much of the state. We look forward to enactment of Senator Inhofe's important job-creating legislation."
- ▶ **S. 2688, Capital Gains Inflation Relief Act of 2018**
 - This bill ends capital gains tax on inflation, which will expand economic growth and encourage more investment into the economy, by taxing based on true economic gains, versus taxing inflation. Senator Inhofe first introduced this legislation in 2007, and it is past time for Congress and the Administration to fix this issue. This simple improvement will make the tax code more efficient, improve fairness and encourage long-term capital investment—which will have a direct and positive impact on our nation's economy.



VETERANS

Inhofe takes his responsibility to ensure our nation’s veterans receive the best possible care seriously. Veterans have sacrificed so much for the United States already and deserve high quality, affordable care. Inhofe was successful at enacting legislation in the 115th Congress to improve veteran access to quality health care, education benefits and quality of life, but the work does not stop here.

Oklahoma VA Facilities

Many Veterans Affairs medical facilities around the country are in need of repair to provide our veterans the care and services they deserve. In the past few years, Inhofe has been a champion for improving the standard of care our veterans receive. In 2017, Inhofe’s office investigated hundreds of inquiries from Oklahoma veterans who had been subjected to insufficient, and possibly negligent, care by the VA—none of which had been identified in internal inspections, so Inhofe demanded an external investigation. This investigation was conducted after Inhofe held the VA IG’s nomination the year prior, until—even holding the nomination of the VA’s IG in 2016 until the IG promised to allow an outside entity to conduct the investigation.

The Joint Commission, a non-profit entity that is a leader in healthcare assessment was selected to assess both the Muskogee and Oklahoma City facilities. In July of 2017, the VA Inspector General (IG) released a report on an investigation into the Muskogee VA Health Care system, and the Oklahoma City report was completed on November 2, 2017—but these reports were one-time audits and didn’t provide a continued authority for regional directors to work with outside organizations to assess their facilities.

“Inhofe takes his responsibility to ensure our nation’s veterans receive the best possible care seriously. Veterans have sacrificed so much for the United States already and deserve high quality, affordable care.”

To give the VA’s Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) directors and medical center directors the permanent authority to contract with outside entities to conduct investigations of their VA facilities, Inhofe introduced S. 1266, the *Enhancing Veteran Care Act*, on May 25, 2017. The regional VA directors know the issues at their medical facilities firsthand and are directly responsible for cutting through the bureaucracy to enact change—they should be empowered to seek external assessments and feedback. Inhofe testified in support of the legislation before the Senate Committee on Veteran’s Affairs. The legislation was signed by President Trump in December of 2017 and is PL 115-94.

But that wasn’t enough for Inhofe. Since he got personally involved in correcting the problems at the VA centers in Oklahoma, their rating relative to other VA centers increased, showing positive improvement. However, Inhofe wants to create a culture of continuous improvement at all veterans’ health centers, so he introduced legislation in March 2018 to require all VA Medical Centers to present a plan to reach a five star rating.

In an effort to begin this work immediately in his home state, Inhofe sent a letter to each of the VA medical directors in Oklahoma, Director Vlosich of OKC and Director Morgan of Muskogee, to request their resources and needs at their respective facilities to increase the level of care received by our Oklahoma veterans. His legislation was enacted as Sec. 602 of the *Veterans Benefits and Transition Act* (P.L. No. 115-407), signed into law on December 31, 2018.



In June of 2018, Inhofe supported legislation that secured vital funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military infrastructure. He worked to ensure that the bill fully funded programs to prevent opioid abuse and veteran homelessness, as well as provide over \$10 million for a new surgical Intensive Care Unit at the Oklahoma City VA facility so our veterans can have the high-quality service and care they deserve.

Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017

Inhofe cosponsored this important legislation, which became PL 115-41, to ensure our veterans have access to the quality health care they deserve. This legislation made much needed reforms to ensure that bad actors are removed from the VA by allowing the Secretary of the VA to expedite the removal, demotion or suspension of employees based on misconduct or performance. Further, it increased protections for employees that are willing to speak up when they see something wrong. President Trump is committed to reforming and improving our Veterans' Administration and enacting the *Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act* does just that.

VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017

Inhofe cosponsored the *VA Choice and Quality Employment Act* of 2017, to revamp hiring and employee management processes at the agency's health and service centers. The bill provided \$2.1 billion to extend the Veterans Choice program and included reforms to help the VA attract and retain top talent, hold individuals accountable for poor performance and deliver exceptional services and care to America's veteran population. It was enacted and is PL 115-46.

“In Oklahoma, we have seen firsthand the widespread dysfunction that has plagued our VA nation-wide,” Inhofe said. “The Veterans Choice program is a bipartisan effort to ensure our vets have access to quality healthcare, allowing them to skip long travel and wait times at some VA facilities by accessing private care. This legislation makes several VA reforms to address staffing shortages, training and retention issues while ensuring the Veterans Choice program continues to receive funding. I look forward to President Trump enacting this law and working with my colleagues to continue to improve the vital program.”

Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017

The *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act* of 2017 was broad, bipartisan legislation that will improve veterans' education benefits and enhance the post-9/11 G.I. Bill. This legislation, PL 115-48, included an Inhofe-authored provision, the *Veterans Education Improvement Act* of 2017, which reinstates veterans' eligibility under the *Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act* of 2010 for education benefits when pursuing post-secondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. Before, veterans were prevented from using education benefits for independent study unless it was for a degree offered by an institution of higher learning, making certain CTEs ineligible. This provision removed this obstacle allowing Oklahoma's veterans access to more than 200 programs to obtain necessary and marketable skills.

In protecting and serving our country, our veterans rightfully deserve access to higher education opportunities and the G.I. Bill has provided this access for generations. The reforms of the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act* of 2017 will improve our veterans' success as they transition into civilian life. The legislation also makes much-needed updates for reservists, Purple Heart recipients, veterans who face school closures while enrolled and surviving family members. The legislation also provides increased resources and authority for educational assistance to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, computer programming and career technical training.

VA MISSION Act of 2018

In May 2018, Inhofe voted for the *VA Mission Act* of 2018. This legislation enacts comprehensive reforms at the VA and ensures all veterans have access to the VA Caregiver Program. Inhofe was especially pleased that the legislation also continues funding for the VA Choice program, which allows veterans to avoid excessive travel or wait times by receiving high quality private care in their own communities. In addition to continuing the Choice program, the legislation expanded VA Choice and removed arbitrary criteria to streamline community care.

Since 2015, Oklahoma has turned a corner, making meaningful changes and improvements to ensure our veterans get the high quality care they have earned. The passage of the *VA Mission Act* builds on Inhofe's hard work by improving efficiency in the Veterans Affairs' community care programs and expanding access to resources for veteran caregivers. It takes meaningful steps to improve the quality of care veterans receive by making it easier for VA health centers to recruit and retain key medical personnel.

75th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Act

In October 2018, Inhofe introduced legislation to establish a commemorative program to honor veterans, educate the public about the history of World War II, highlight the service of the men and women who served our nation on the home front during the war, recognize the contributions of our allies and remember the horrors of the Holocaust. The Greatest Generation selflessly fought and defeated tyranny during World War II, standing up for American values of liberty and democracy during the darkest days. We owe it to these veterans to recognize their sacrifice, and that of our nation and our allies, by honoring their service during the war. By appropriately honoring the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, we can educate current and future generations about the war's heroes and history. The president signed Inhofe's legislation on January 10, 2019, as PL 115-433.

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