



U . S . S E N A T O R
JAMES INHOFE



WINTER, 2009

[HTTP://WWW.INHOFE.SENATE.GOV](http://www.inhofe.senate.gov)

Dear Fellow Oklahomans,

As Congress begins its new session, I want to share with you my priorities for 2009. I also encourage you to visit my website, www.inhofe.senate.gov, to check out the new *2008 Annual Report* and all the things we accomplished last year.

In this newsletter, I have outlined some of my plans to get our economy back on track and grow the economic development opportunities in Oklahoma and the nation. Even in a bleak economy, I am confident in the bright future of our state. Oklahoma is primed for the global market with our excellent universities, dedicated workforce, and abundant resources.

I know that you, like most Americans, are concerned about the threat this recession is to your jobs and savings. I want you to know that I understand your concerns, and am working to meet the challenges we currently face with smart policies that will strengthen our economy and protect your tax dollars.

Sincerely, Jim Inhofe



Sen. Inhofe presents an EDA grant to the city of Woodward. In the last 6 years, EDA investments of almost \$26 million have leveraged another 30 million in state and local dollars and more than 558 million in private sector dollars in Oklahoma.

Rebuilding the Economy

The biggest question on everyone's mind is how are we going to get our economy back on track? Here are some of my priorities to create jobs and restore confidence in our economy:

Creating Jobs: We need to promote economic development that will create long-term, sustainable jobs for our communities.

New Energy Economy: As a national leader in both agriculture and energy production, Oklahoma is at the threshold of the new energy economy. It is in our state's and our country's best interest to demand a new energy agenda to make America's energy supply more stable, diverse, and affordable.

- I plan to reintroduce legislation I sponsored with Rep. Boren to protect our marginal wells and keep them producing.
- Reintroduce my Drive America on Natural Gas Act to encourage the use of natural gas in our vehicles.
- Continue to support the development of renewable energy in our state. Rep. Lucas and I have long worked to provide transitional assistance to farmers to produce bioenergy crops and were successful in getting it into law last year.

Building Roads and Infrastructure: Part of strengthening our economy is building better roads and water systems. In 2005, I authored the federal highway bill which returned \$3 billion to Oklahoma for infrastructure improvements.

- I will work on the reauthorization of the highway bill to improve our transportation and build safer highways.
- I will reintroduce legislation to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration. In Oklahoma alone, over the past six years, EDA grants have resulted in more than 9,000 jobs being created or saved.

"No" To Big Government Bailouts: Last year, I opposed over \$1 trillion in government bailouts including the outrageous decision by Congress to give an unelected bureaucrat, Treasury Secretary Paulson, the unprecedented authority to spend \$700 billion as he wished.

- Rather than trying to bail out failed systems, we should be looking ahead and providing solutions that will meet the demands of the 21st century. I will continue to speak out against irresponsible government spending that lacks accountability and offers no long-term solutions.

Priorities for our Armed Services: Report from Afghanistan

My role as Senior Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee recently took me to Africa and Afghanistan where I had the opportunity to visit our troops and get an update on the current security situation in Afghanistan. I was pleased to meet with top commanders including General David McKiernan and General Abdul Raheem Wardak who informed our delegation that improvements continue to be made in assisting Afghanistan in establishing and maintaining their security. Despite these improvements, the Taliban and other extremists, seeing their failure in Iraq, are stepping up violence in Afghanistan. We must increase the total number of forces, US, NATO and coalition partners, to train the Afghan Security Forces, take the fight to the enemy and further stabilize the region. I was especially proud to meet with some of Oklahoma's own troops based at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar and Camp Eggers in Kabul. We can all be proud that our forces remain dedicated to their mission of defeating the deadly insurgency in Afghanistan.

Through my position on the committee, here are my priorities to promote a strong military and keep our nation safe:

Military Families: Our military families are critical to our all volunteer force; we need to ensure they are receiving the care and support they require, such as access to child care, schools, and better housing. I am proud to represent all our military families including over 37,000 families living right here in Oklahoma.

- I am proud to have included in the updated GI Benefits plan the transferability option that will enable soldiers to transfer their benefits to spouses and children.
- I will again push to fix the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) offset. Spouses and dependents surviving a fallen soldier have made the ultimate sacrifice and should be given this simple act of compensation without hesitation.

Building Global Partnerships: We need to assist other nations and their militaries in combating terrorism within their borders and take an active part in maintaining peace and stability throughout the world.

- Increase funding for training and equipping of foreign military and security forces.
- Increase support to U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) to help countries in Africa take the lead role in dealing with humanitarian crisis, terrorism, and region stability.

Missile Defense: America and our allies need to be protected by a layered missile defense system.

- Field a layered missile defense capability to provide a defense against a ballistic missile attack.
- Fully fund radar and ground based interceptor sites in Czechoslovakia and Poland respectively.

- Conduct a Space Based Interceptor study to assess feasibility of a space-based interceptor element of our missile defense system.

Equipment and Training: It is extremely important that we maintain a military capability to respond globally across the spectrum of conflict – from humanitarian crises to major theater conflicts.

- Increase base funding for the Dept. of Defense and ensure we have the right size of forces.
- Provide our service members the resources, training, and equipment needed to conduct combat and stability operations throughout the world.



Senator Inhofe meets with Oklahoma Troops at Camp Eggers in Afghanistan, December 2008

Highlights from 2008: Making a Difference for Oklahoma

NLOS Cannon Production Begins in Elgin, OK

In 2007, Oklahoma took center stage in the modernization of the Army when it was announced that the Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon (NLOS-C), a key component of Future Combat Systems, would be built in Elgin, OK. NLOS-C is the first FCS Manned Ground Vehicle prototype to be completed. Last summer I was proud to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Elgin facility where the cannons are being built. The proximity of the industrial park to Fort Sill enables the cannons to roll off the assembly line and onto the testing range. With this new artillery system, Oklahoma can take pride in being an epicenter for the development of cutting-edge technology that will keep our troops safe and play an integral role in our country's national defense.



Sen. Inhofe speaking at the dedication ceremony for the new Tinker Aerospace Complex, October 2008.

Tinker Will Lead to More Economic Development

Economic development opportunities quickly became a reality late last year as Tinker Air Force Base signed a lease with Oklahoma County to turn the old GM plant into a new Aerospace Complex. With the prospects of creating nearly 3,000 jobs over the next ten years, this new partnership will greatly add to the Oklahoma City region and the already booming aerospace industry in our state.



Senator Inhofe at the unveiling of the NLOS-C in Washington, D.C.

Oklahoma Gains from 2008 Defense Bills

As one of the top employers in the state, Oklahoma's military industry does more than train soldiers, it is the lifeblood of many of our communities. I was pleased to work with our delegation and other members of Congress to provide more than \$350 million for Oklahoma's military installations in the 2008 defense appropriation and authorization bills which will go towards additional military construction at our bases, continues BRAC, and ensures the viability of our state's military installations for years to come.

Protecting Oklahomans from Climate Tax Legislation

Sometimes our biggest achievements in Washington are not what we do, but what we don't do. 2008 brought record-high energy costs leaving no one free from feeling the pain at the pump. And yet, when gas was at its highest, Senate Democrats proposed global warming cap-and-trade legislation that, if passed, would have drastically increased energy costs at the gas pump, in the grocery store, and in our homes – all for no environmental gain. The debate over the climate change legislation was one of the hottest topics in the 110th Congress

and is a top priority under President Obama's administration. As the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure

we protect America's economic competitiveness, promote clean energy solutions, and carefully consider the impacts of any climate legislation. In 2003, 2005,

and again in 2007, I led the opposition to the Climate Tax Bill, protecting thousands of American jobs and preventing thousands of dollars in tax increases from being forced on Oklahomans.

51,600 Oklahoma Jobs Would Have Been Lost Under Lieberman-Warner

- \$6.5 billion Loss to OK Economy
- \$6,216 Hit on Avg OK Household
- \$ Electricity 145% Higher
- \$ Gasoline 147% Higher

Source: Predicted 2030 Impacts from Analysis of the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, S. 2191, NAM/ACCF, Mar. 13, 2008

Visit My Website: [HTTP://WWW.INHOFE.SENATE.GOV](http://www.inhofe.senate.gov)

The goal of my website is to provide you with direct information and greater access to what's happening in your government.

- Sign-up to receive my E-newsletter
- Check out legislation that I'm sponsoring
- Watch video of my floor speeches
- Read my blog "Jim's Journal"

Also be sure to check out my award-winning Environment and Public Works Committee website: www.epw.senate.gov, for the latest information on energy, environment, and transportation policy.

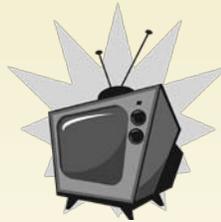


2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Want to know more about the 110th Congress? Be sure to go to Senator Inhofe's website to download his 2008 Annual Report.

ARE YOU READY FOR DIGITAL TELEVISION (DTV) TRANSITION?

On February 17, 2009 all TV stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. To learn what you need to do to make the switch to DTV visit: www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009).



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Send an email to matt_dempsey@inhofe.senate.gov with your email address, mailing address and issues of special interest and we'll add you to our mailing list.

If you need help with a federal matter, are planning a trip to DC, or simply want to share your views on a particular issue we can help. Feel free to contact one of my offices below.

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