James M. Inhofe

U.S. SENATOR - OKLAHOMA

www.inhofe.senate.gov

Annual Report for 2008

January 2009

Dear Friend:

As we begin the 111th Congress, it is important to evaluate what was accomplished last year and what priorities remain. As a way to share what I did in the U.S. Senate on your behalf, I am pleased to provide this Annual Report for 2008. I hope that you will find this information useful.

Last year, our country faced many great challenges, most troubling of which was the collapse of the economy. I believe that Congress made a massive error in handing over hundreds of billions of dollars to one unelected bureaucrat. I adamantly opposed the bailouts – which have now totaled more than $1 trillion – and the New Year has proven that these funds were spent with no oversight and have done nothing to fix the economy. Rather than throwing your money away, I am calling on Congress to direct its attention to solutions that enable you to keep more of your hard-earned money and promote lasting economic growth.

I am committed to protecting Oklahoma's way of life. In this report you will see where I worked to address our nation's energy crisis using my state as the prime example for the vast potential we have to develop energy right here in our country and no longer be bound to foreign oil.

As the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I fought against overreaching government regulation and defeated the climate tax bill that would have cost thousands of dollars for American families. Additionally, I supported the work of the Economic Development Administration whose investments have been extremely successful in creating and sustaining thousands of jobs in Oklahoma and across America.

Through my leadership position on the Senate Armed Services Committee, I worked to strengthen our nation's defense and build global partnerships that are vital to our national security.

What I have enjoyed most in my years of public service is flying to every corner of my home state and hearing directly from constituents about their views on the issues. I invite you to visit my website at www.inhofe.senate.gov to learn more and to share your views.

A lot needs to be done in this next Congress, but be assured; I stand in your corner. Thank you for giving me this honor to serve you in the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe

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Oklahoma:

Senator Inhofe is a tireless leader when it comes to getting results for his home state of Oklahoma. Through his position on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Inhofe has been able to bring attention to the exemplary work taking place at Oklahoma's military installations and secure essential funding for the growth and development of the bases. As the Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Sen. Inhofe has played a key role in protecting Oklahoma's farmers, businesses, and local municipalities from overreaching government regulations, and put forth an energy plan to utilize Oklahoma's abundant resources and create jobs. He is the leading voice in Washington opposed to government bailouts burdening American taxpayers. At the time of the initial $700 billion bailout, he called it, "the worst vote I have seen in my career."

The following is an overview of what Senator Inhofe was able to accomplish for Oklahoma in 2008:

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

Ranking Member, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Works

Senior Member, Standing Committee on Armed Services

Co-chair, Senate Army Caucus

Co-chair, Senate Taiwan Caucus

Founding Member, Border Security and Enforcement First Caucus

Member, Rural Health Caucus

Member, Rural Education Caucus

Tar Creek:

For decades, achieving a viable solution for the residents of Tar Creek in Northeast Oklahoma had been viewed as an impossible task. Senator Inhofe took on the challenge and today, a finish line is in sight for those living in the contaminated land. Through his leadership position on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Inhofe was able to secure essential funding to help residents relocate and bring the clean-up of Tar Creek near completion.

- ✓ **Developed a Remediation Plan:** In January 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency announced its remedy of the Tar Creek Superfund Site and much to the benefit of Oklahomans involved, included both the completion of voluntary relocation assistance for the area residents and continued chat sales. This would not be possible without Senator Inhofe's passage of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2007. Senator Inhofe included a provision directing the EPA to include resident relocation in its upcoming remediation plan, and provided them the legal authority required to include voluntary relocation in the plan. The EPA has acted upon Senator Inhofe's legislation and has now included relocation in its remedy.

- ✓ **Secured $6.24M Grant for Tar Creek:** Senator Inhofe's efforts on the Water Resources and Development Act of 2007 (WRDA) were instrumental in getting an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant of $6,240,000 for the continuing cleanup of the Tar Creek Superfund Site and further the buyout of residents as well as the demolition or relocation of homes, businesses, and public uses structures in areas susceptible to collapse.

(Cont'd next page)

(Oklahoma: Tar Creek Cont'd)

Praise for Tar Creek:

'Tar Creek Triumph'

"…Inhofe has been a determined and effective leader in efforts to assist those who wish to move elsewhere."

The Oklahoman Editorial
February 23, 2008

"…Thousands of hard-working Oklahomans have been negatively impacted by living near one of the nation's largest Superfund sites, and this funding will help bring closure for many of them. I would like to commend both Senator Jim Inhofe and Governor Brad Henry on their leadership and dedication to bringing this federal assistance to the families of northeast Oklahoma.

Congressman Boren
Press Release, November 14, 2008

"This is more good news for the people in the Picher and Cardin areas, and I appreciate Sen. Inhofe's leadership on this issue…"

Governor Henry
Press release
November 14, 2008

"The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma applauded the plan and credited Inhofe for pursuing not only buyout but the chat issue. '…it creates much needed economic development while also providing a permanent cleanup solution.'"

John Berrey, Chm. of the tribe's business committee
Agency Unveils Plans for Tar Creek
Tulsa World by Jim Myers
February 23, 2008

"Senator Inhofe has been a longtime champion for these communities and instrumental in bringing about this final cleanup plan."

EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene

Oklahoma Agriculture:

New Farm Bill Included Inhofe Provision for Bioenergy Crops

Congress enacted a new farm bill maintaining the important commodity support safety net for America's farmers and ranchers. As a national leader in both agriculture and energy production, Oklahoma is at the threshold of the new energy economy. Today, world-class scientists at Oklahoma State University, the Noble Foundation, and the University of Oklahoma, together with farmers across the state, are making significant developments in the emerging field of cellulosic biofuels. Senator Inhofe joined with Congressman Frank Lucas to include a provision in the farm bill to provide transitional assistance to farmers who produce bioenergy crops helping to further develop Oklahoma's alternative energy industry.

Initiated Legislation to Help Farm Truck Drivers

Oklahoma's delegation took action to address a problem faced by a number of farmers in Oklahoma and around the country when driving their goods across state lines. Currently, just by driving between two states that do not have a reciprocity agreement for farm truck weights, like Oklahoma and Kansas, these farmers are exceeding an unnecessarily low federal weight definition for commercial motor vehicles and are being ticketed and fined. Though legislation did not pass in the 110th Congress, Senator Inhofe and Reps. Fallin and Boren garnered praise from the American Farm Bureau and the American Farmers and Ranchers for their commitment and efforts to fix this issue for farmers.

Farm Leaders' Praise:

"We appreciate the Senator's efforts in addressing unreasonable restrictions on farmers and ranchers with farm tagged vehicles as they move their commodities across state lines."

Ray Wulf
President of the American Farmers and Ranchers

"Sen. Inhofe has been and continues to be a strong, effective advocate for the farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma. We commend Sen. Inhofe for his commitment and support of the state's agriculture community."

Mike Spradling
Oklahoma Farm Bureau/ President

Oklahoma Military:

"Congress and this nation must remain committed to supporting our men and women in uniform, committed to ensuring they are properly manned to be able to engage globally across the spectrum of conflict and committed to ensuring that when we send them into harm's way, they will have best training and equipment available."

Senator Inhofe, Senior Member,
Senate Armed Services Committee

Expanded Tinker Air Force Base for More Economic Development

Thanks to the voters of Oklahoma County, the old GM plant is no longer empty. Seeing the economic potential, Senator Inhofe was proud to voice his support for the lease of the plant to Tinker Air Force Base which now holds a new Aerospace Complex and stands to create 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 the state.

War Supplemental Funded Child Development Center at Fort Sill

On May, 22, 2008 Senator Inhofe voted for The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 to provide funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and a much-needed revision to the Montgomery GI Bill. It provides additional funding for troops and veterans, modernizes the outdated Montgomery GI Bill and appropriates funding for Military and Veteran's Affairs construction, including $9 million for a child development center at Fort Sill.

Began NLOS Cannon Production in Elgin, Oklahoma

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 (FCS), would be built in Elgin, Oklahoma. NLOS-C is the first FCS Manned Ground Vehicle prototype to be completed.

Sen. Inhofe at the ribbon cutting for the Elgin facility. Aug. 25, 2008

Senator Inhofe was proud to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Elgin facility where the cannons are being integrated. The proximity of the industrial park to Fort Sill enables the cannons to roll off the assembly line, onto the testing range and into the hand of our soldiers at Fort Sill. 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.

Oklahoma Roads and Infrastructure:

Meeting Oklahoma's infrastructure needs is a top priority for Senator Inhofe. As the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, charged with all transportation matters, Senator Inhofe has worked to make our roads safer and more efficient. He understands that building better roads and water systems will increase commerce and strengthen the economy.

In 2005, Senator Inhofe authored the federal highway bill, which returned $3 billion in taxes to Oklahoma in needed roadway, bridge, and infrastructure improvements and for the first time ensured Oklahoma received as much back as it paid in taxes to the Highway Trust Fund.

- **Highway Technical Corrections Bill Signed by President:** On April 17, Senator Inhofe secured passage of the Highway Technical Corrections Bill, HR 1195, which passed by a vote of 88-2 and was signed into law on June 6. Following the vote Senator Inhofe said:

  "The 2005 highway bill was a historic victory for Oklahoma. I am grateful to have worked with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to make three small, but necessary, corrections to the highway bill for Oklahoma. As the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I congratulate my colleagues on the EPW Committee for coming together once again to pass important transportation legislation."

- **Saved Highway Trust Fund:** When gas prices jumped to record-highs forcing drivers to reduce consumption, receipts for highway construction dropped to emergency lows. Sen. Inhofe took the lead in reinstating $8 billion dollars to the Highway Trust Fund to protect its solvency and ensure that road projects were fully funded and able to continue.

- **ODOT Director Gary Ridley Testified at Committee Hearing:** Senator Inhofe invited Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley to testify on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials before the Environment and Public Works Committee. His testimony on how a standalone bridge bill would negatively influence Oklahoma's capital bridge expenditures provided valuable insight for legislators seeking ways to improve the federal bridge program.

"…we believe Oklahoma and the transportation infrastructure of these United States have a champion like no other… Without your masterful delivery of the legislation to direct funding in order to restore the Highway Trust Fund, Oklahoma and this Nation would be facing an immediate and continuing crisis of untold magnitude."

Oklahoma Department of Transportation &
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
Letter written to Senator Inhofe on September 12, 2008

Disaster Assistance:

Oklahoma is no stranger to severe weather. Senator Inhofe has supported the work of scientists and researchers at the National Weather Center at the University of Oklahoma to enhance warning systems and put preventative measures in place. In the unfortunate event that severe weather hits, Sen. Inhofe responds with prompt action whenever federal assistance is needed.

Whenever disaster strikes, the compassionate spirit of Oklahoma is evident in the communities, leaders, residents, and neighboring friends who rush to the aid of those affected.

Did you know?

Since 2003, Sen. Inhofe has provided more than $18 Million for the exemplary weather research taking place in Oklahoma at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The same was true when Oklahoma suffered many severe storms in 2008, including the destruction of a tornado in the community of Picher. Senator Inhofe flew to the site the morning after the storm to comfort the victims and offer assurance that assistance would be expedited.

In other parts of the state Oklahoma citizens experienced massive flooding while Northwestern Oklahoma farmers endured emergency drought conditions:

- Senator Inhofe joined with members of the delegation to request that the USDA Secretary quickly approve disaster declaration for Northwestern Oklahoma counties to bring needed aid. He also fought special interest groups that sued to keep ranchers in Northwestern Oklahoma and other surrounding states from having access to critical grazing lands.
- Oklahoma received $33.5 million for emergency highway repairs and $17 million for Army Corps of Engineers disaster rebuilding in the Supplemental of 2008.

Photos: Senator Inhofe, Mayor Sam Freeman of Picher, Ed Keheley, and John Sparkman surveying damage the morning after the Picher tornado on May 11, 2008.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grants:

Over the years, Senator Inhofe's support of the Economic Development Administration's investment program has helped many Oklahoma communities expand public-private partnerships leading to new commercial projects and jobs. As the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee in 2004, Senator Inhofe authored legislation to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration until 2009. Because of EDA's success in supporting economic development that creates long-term, sustainable jobs in needy communities, Senator Inhofe introduced a bill in 2008 to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration for another 5 years.

INHOFE ANNOUNCED FEDERAL EDA GRANTS TO HELP MANY OKLAHOMA COMMUNITIES:

$1 Million for Woodward County: Sen. Inhofe presented a check to the city of Woodward, Oklahoma, for a $1 million grant, which he worked to secure from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help build the Woodward Community Campus. According to EDA, the grant would lead to 192 jobs in Woodward and generate $1.6 million in private investment.

"Today is truly a great day to be in Woodward. This EDA grant is a great addition to the 5th fastest growing city in Oklahoma. I would particularly like to thank Senator Inhofe for all of his tremendous work in securing federal assistance not only today, but for his previous efforts including assistance for downtown enhancements, improvements at our airport, and buildings at southern plains range research center. Woodward is certainly grateful for Senator Inhofe's continued leadership."

Bill Fanning, Mayor of Woodward
Press Release, August 29, 2008

"No one is more thankful for Senator Inhofe's leadership than EDA. This new workforce training center is a great example of Senator Inhofe's leadership to Woodward County. The fact is our national economy cannot be strong without strong regional economies."

Patty Sheetz, Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs for EDA
Press Release, August 29, 2008

$500,000 for the Indian Nation Council of Governments (INCOG): Carried out the engineering plans at three low water dams to improve the structure and quality of the Arkansas River Corridor. The ongoing development and maintenance of the Arkansas River Corridor generates new economic opportunities that benefit the entire region.

"We are delighted that EDA will invest $500,000 in engineering design services allowing Tulsa County and its river partners to continue momentum in implementing the Arkansas River Master Plan through public infrastructure improvements to Zink Dam and construction of additional low water dams. We thank Senator Inhofe, Congressman Sullivan, and EDA Regional Administrator Garza for their continued support."

Rich Brierre, Executive Director, Indian Nations Council of Governments
Press Release, September 12, 2008

(Cont'd next page)

(Oklahoma: EDA Cont'd)

$900,000 for Adair County: Benefited the City of Watts and Adair County for the construction of infrastructure improvements to accommodate the development of a new state-of-the-art plastic recycling and composite building material manufacturing facility in Watts.

Joe Harrington, Deputy Executive Director, Eastern Oklahoma Development District, welcomed the news saying, *"With Senator Inhofe's continued support, this is another example of one of the premiere federal agencies providing assistance to distressed areas of Oklahoma. Mr. Pedro Garza and his staff in the regional EDA office in Austin have been instrumental n recent high impact economic development projects in Oklahoma."*

Press release, September 2, 2008

Elgin: Senator Inhofe invited Elgin Mayor Thoma to demonstrate to the EPW committee the tremendous work done in partnership with EDA in Oklahoma. "I was pleased to welcome Mayor Thoma before the EPW Committee and discuss with him the tremendous success story of the Elgin Industrial Park," Senator Inhofe said. "As chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in 2004, I was proud to have authored legislation to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration, making $2,250,000 available for the development of the Industrial Park. The Elgin facility will develop some of the most cutting-edge technology on the battlefield, and I was pleased to have Mayor Thoma before the Committee to share the story of this tremendous achievement."

"Senator Inhofe has long been a champion for economic development in Oklahoma. I know, and the people of southwest Oklahoma know, that the Elgin facility would not have happened without the leadership of Jim Inhofe. By working together, we were able to make this a true success story."

Larry Thoma, Mayor of Elgin
Press Release, September 10, 2008

Gen. George Casey (right) and Sen. James Inhofe, check out an NLOS-C prototype being assembled by BAE Systems in Minnesota.

A Return on Investment:

	EDA Grants	# Jobs Created or Saved	Private capital investment leveraged from the grants
Oklahoma:	$26 Million	9,000+	$558 Million
United States:	$1.8 Billion	598,177	$46.7 Billion

* Estimated totals based on FY03 to FY08

Tax Relief Passed In Annual Tax Extenders Package:

From time to time, Congress considers an annual tax bill known as the "tax extenders package," which reauthorizes expiring tax provisions all at once. Senator Inhofe has voted more than 25 times for such extenders allowing for the continuation of tax relief provisions benefiting working Americans and their businesses.

On September 23, 2008, Senator Inhofe was successful in ensuring key Oklahoma priorities were included in a major tax extenders bill. Following the vote he said, **"I have long worked to ensure that each year's tax extenders package includes accelerated depreciation of capital assets on Indian lands and the suspension of the net income limitation for energy produced from marginal oil and natural gas wells to keep these wells economically viable and producing. These two provisions have consistently been included in previous years and are vital to Oklahoma's economy. Now, after months of delay and difficult work to include these provisions, I am happy to join an overwhelming number of Senators in supporting this important bill."**

Another key provision important to Senator Inhofe was the inclusion of a provision which allows taxpayers to write off 50% of the costs of facilities that produce cellulosic biofuels. This is also a provision in Senator Inhofe's American Affordable Fuels Act.

Annual Tax Extenders Bill Provided Tax Relief and Domestic Energy Incentives

- ✓ Spared 20 Million American families from the Alternative Minimum Tax
- ✓ Extended tax relief provisions for individuals such as the deduction for state and local sales taxes, qualified tuition expenses, property taxes, and teacher classroom expenses.
- ✓ Continued over 20 beneficial tax relief provisions for businesses.
- ✓ Included the production tax credit to incentivize the production of wind energy, boosting the promising industry in Oklahoma.
- ✓ Gave more families the $1000 child tax credit
- ✓ Dozens of energy tax incentives: renewable diesel, refinery expensing, and credits for plugs in electric vehicles
- ✓ Removed restrictions on mental health coverage providing parity with general medical coverage
- ✓ Provided disaster relief that included the recent flooding that affected Oklahoma

Stuart Solomon, President and COO of Public Service Company of Oklahoma praised Senator Inhofe's leadership on renewable energy, saying, "PSO is grateful to Senator Inhofe for his long leadership and support of renewable energy, and in particular, wind energy. PSO is the largest distributor of wind energy in Oklahoma and we're in the process of adding even more wind energy to our portfolio. The extension of the renewable production tax credit will help pave the way for our additional wind energy purchases and will allow the wind energy in Oklahoma to continue to grow and prosper. We greatly appreciate Senator Inhofe's vote today to extend the production tax credit and further the wind industry in our state." (Press Release, September 24, 2008)

Paul Renfrow, Vice President of Public Affairs for OGE Energy Corp also praised Senator Inhofe, saying, "OG&E was very pleased to learn that the production tax credit for wind power was passed by the Senate today. This vote means that Oklahoma's vast wind power potential is still on track to be developed. Senator Inhofe's work to include provisions in Congress' Energy Policy Act of 2005 investing in high voltage lines and his consistent leadership extending the production tax credit is only part of his long record not only in support of renewable energy but his long record encouraging the energy production necessary to meet ever increasing demand. OG&E appreciates Senator Inhofe's continued leadership." (Press Release, September 24, 2008)

Washington, DC-Based Prosthetic Research and Development Company Expanded to Oklahoma City:

In a move that further signified Oklahoma's advancement in medical technology, Washington, D.C.-based OrthoCare Innovations announced in March 2008 that it would be expanding to Oklahoma City, becoming the largest independent prosthetic research and development group in the United States.

Later that year, Senator Inhofe participated in a press conference to announce OrthoCare's new partnerships with Oak Ridge National Laboratories and Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab to further develop cutting-edge prosthetics being manufactured in Oklahoma. This new technology will bring hi-tech jobs to the state and will go a long way in assisting injured servicemen, veterans and civilians. Senator Inhofe was instrumental in helping OrthoCare secure a National Institute of Health grant of $750,000 for a Robotic Prosthetic Alignment System. He also authored a successful amendment to the FY09 NDAA to establish a Center of Excellence in the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations.

In his remarks, Senator Inhofe applauded the collaboration of the scientists and manufacturers for taking the successful research developments and turning them into commercial products that can benefit lives: **"Today, there are nearly 2 million Americans with limb loss. …Plans by OrthoCare to commercialize these technologies here in Oklahoma City offer an economic development initiative in the Oklahoma Bioscience sector that is achievable in the near-term. What you may not know is that Oklahoma has a long, proud history of excellence in prosthetic care. For the past twenty-five years, persons who have lost limbs have traveled to Oklahoma from around the world to receive the finest in prosthetic care. The enabling technologies used in providing this care, however, were not developed or manufactured in Oklahoma. In fact, the majority of these technologies were designed and manufactured outside the United States. That's why we are particularly excited that more is being done - by the people in this room - to develop and manufacture new advanced prosthetic technologies here in Oklahoma. Further, they are made in the USA for our valiant servicemen and women and for many other Americans who have suffered limb loss due to accidents or illness."**

"The true value of these advanced technologies is only realized when we can move them from the labs, to the patients who need them. Senator Inhofe has advocated for and supported the application of these federally funded breakthroughs for the benefit of our injured service men and women, and the roughly two million Americans who daily rely on their prostheses."

Dr. David Boone, CP, MPH, Ph.D., CTO and Co-Founder, OrthoCare Innovations
Press Release, October 31, 2008

"On behalf of our Founder Major Dan Rooney, Folds of Honor Foundation, OrthoCare Innovations and its many partners I would like to thank Senator Inhofe for his outstanding leadership in making sure that our service men and women who serve our nation are never forgotten."

Major Pulido U.S. Army (Ret.)
Press Release, October 31, 2008

Code Talkers Honored:

Legislation to award Congressional Commemorative Medals to the Code Talkers of the Choctaw, Comanche, and other tribes in recognition of their service during World Wars I and II became law on October 10, 2008. Senator Inhofe had worked to honor these heroes since first introducing the 'Code Talkers Recognition Act' in 2002.

Oklahoma Senators Jim Inhofe and Dr. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) sponsored the bill in the Senate and Congressman Boren sponsored the bill in the House. The Code Talkers Recognition Act honors Native American Code Talkers from World War I and World War II by issuing a gold medal for their respective tribe and a duplicate silver medal to each Code Talker. In addition, bronze medals will be available for purchase by the public.

Sen. Inhofe and Gregory Pyle, Choctaw Chief

"Congressman Dan Boren and Senator James Inhofe both deserve a lot of gratitude from Choctaws for their dedication to memorializing one of the greatest parts of our tribal history."

Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Ada Evening News

Legislation to give Congressional Medals to Code Talkers passes both House and Senate

October 3, 2008

Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW):

As the ranking member of the committee, Senator Inhofe is committed to continuing the environmental progress we have made over the years. As we proceed, we must use the best science available, consider the costs associated with the policies we institute and constantly remind the bureaucracy that it is here to serve the people of this country - not rule over them.

Defeated the Climate Tax Bill:

"The Lieberman-Warner bill (America's Climate Security Act) represents the largest tax increase in U.S. history and the biggest pork bill ever contemplated with trillions of dollars in giveaways. …I am confident that when the American people learn the facts about the enormous economic burdens of this bill, they will contact their Senators and ask them to oppose the bill."

– Senator Inhofe, Ranking Member of the EPW Committee, Led Opposition to Lieberman-Warner Climate Change Bill

Sometimes the biggest achievements in Washington are not what Congress did, but what they didn'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. Fortunately, Congress did what the majority of Americans wanted and opposed that bill.

The debate over the climate change legislation became 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 Senator Inhofe's responsibility to ensure any climate solution will protect America's economic competitiveness, promote clean energy solutions, and carefully consider the policy tools used to enact any climate legislation. Unfortunately the Lieberman-Warner Climate Tax Bill violated all of these principles. It ignored the needs of American families by imposing massive cost increases. It would have sent thousands of American manufacturing jobs overseas by regulating American companies. And it failed to offer a global solution to decrease the global emissions of countries like India and China.

Oklahoma agricultural producers raised concerns that the climate change legislation would increase their cost of production: *"We believe this legislation unfairly penalizes farmers by forcing them to comply with climate change regulations and makes it more difficult for them to compete in the global market,"* said Mike Spradling, president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau in a press release on June 3, 2008. The Farm Bureau leader praised Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-OK for opposing the legislation and said, *"he (Sen. Inhofe) considers this a hidden tax on agriculture producers. We are pleased to stand with Sen. Inhofe against this bill and laud him for wanting to protect our producers from unnecessary financial burdens."*

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Inhofe EPW Committee Website Awarded Coveted Gold Mouse Award:

Early in 2008 Sen. Inhofe was recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) for having one of the top websites in Congress. The Inhofe-Republican portion of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee website http://www.epw.senate.gov/minority was awarded CMF's prestigious 2007 "Gold Mouse Award."

Senator Inhofe has made use of the internet to provide the public more direct information. The goal of his website has always been to bring government closer to the people and allow for more feedback from constituents.

Today, his staff posts daily updates from the Senator on two blogs and YouTube channels, one for his official office and the other for the work he is doing on the Environment and Public Works Committee.

(EPW: Climate Cont'd)

Motivated by the influential environmentalist movement, Senate Democrat leaders denied Sen. Inhofe's call for a full and open debate on the bill and blocked his efforts to make improvements. He stood up for the majority of Americans who opposed this legislation and was given the Americans for Prosperity Foundation's George Washington Award - the organization's highest national honor. In the end, what would have been the largest pork bill ever passed by Congress quickly died four days after being brought to the floor. With the serious financial crisis Americans face today, it is obvious that the Senate was right to reject a devastating climate tax, which would have cost thousands for 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

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

The Damaging Impacts of Climate Cap and Trade Legislation:

(Information compiled and released by Senator Inhofe's EPW Committee Staff.)

1) Raise Gas Prices Higher: "Government studies confirm this will only raise gas prices." The EPA estimates that the Lieberman-Warner bill will increase fuel costs an additional 53 cents per gallon by 2030 and by $1.40 by 2050. The Energy Information Agency (EIA) estimates gas prices will increase anywhere from 41 cents per gallon to $1.01 per gallon by 2030.

2) Largest Tax Increase Ever: The Climate Tax Bill was the largest tax increase in American history. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) says Lieberman-Warner would effectively raise taxes on Americans by over a trillion dollars just during the next 10 years. The bill would have created $6.7 Trillion in the form of higher gasoline and electricity bills, and with no climate benefit. The Lieberman-Warner bill did not have a tax cut provision in it. Boxer's claim of "tax relief" in the bill is based on a non-binding Sense of the Senate resolution that says some funds "should be" used to protect consumers from the coming "increases in energy and other costs" caused by the bill (Section 585, page 204 of substitute version, Sense of the Senate on Tax Initiative to Protect Consumers).

3) Nuclear Energy Lacking: Nuclear power is by far the world's largest sources of non-emitting energy. Any credible attempt to reduce carbon emissions must include significant development of new nuclear plants. Merely passing a climate bill will not be enough to support the nuclear construction needed to satisfy the bill's mandates. Additional incentives will be indispensable in the near-term to revitalize the industry to a level that encourages massive development.

4) Job Killer: The independent Energy Information Administration says the bill would result in a 9.5% drop in manufacturing output and higher energy costs, and that it will be worse unless we can build 268 new nuclear plants by 2030. This country has already lost 3 million manufacturing jobs since 2000. An analysis of this bill by the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Council for Capital Formation states that up to 1.8 million jobs could be forfeited by 2020 and 4 million jobs could be by 2030. Midwestern states alone could lose close to a million jobs alone in this time frame. Without international participation, which this bill fails to adequately address, global concentrations of greenhouse gases will continue to increase, even if America were to nearly eliminate its emissions.

EPW: Tar Creek Cleanup Progressed

Through his leadership position on the EPW Committee since 2003, Senator Inhofe has been able to garner support for the cleanup of Tar Creek, even convincing the government to buy-out the site to give residents a chance to start a new life away from the dangers of the abandoned mine field.

It has been a priority of Senator Inhofe's to ensure the federal agencies responsible for remediating the Tar Creek Superfund Site were all working together expeditiously to help families get out of harm's way. On February 22, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency released its selected remedy addressing key components of the Tar Creek Superfund Site. This was a major victory for Northeast Oklahoma - hailed as a "Tar Creek Triumph" by *The Oklahoman*.

The EPA's remedy included both the completion of voluntary relocation assistance for the area residents and continued chat sales. This was a direct result of the provisions Senator Inhofe had placed in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 directing the EPA to reconsider including resident relocation in its upcoming remediation plan, and providing them the legal authority required to include voluntary relocation in the plan. The EPA has acted upon Senator Inhofe's legislation and has now included relocation in its selected remedy, thus speeding up the process to help families move. The continued chat sales at the site was another major accomplishment for the region. Nearly 100 years of mining in the Tar Creek Superfund site produced millions of tons of mine waste known as chat. However, chat can be a resource and used as an aggregate in roadway construction - Senator Inhofe included a section in the federal highway bill enacted in 2005 directing the EPA to develop rules on the use of chat in transportation construction projects which was reaffirmed by the new plan.

When this was announced Senator Inhofe praised the plan saying, **"This announcement marks landmark progress for the people living in the area of the Tar Creek Superfund Site. The EPA's latest remediation plan not only addresses necessary clean up of soil and water contamination from chat piles and wastes at the site; it also announces the completion of relocation assistance for the residents living in the Tar Creek communities."**

Praise on Tar Creek:

"This master plan will ensure a coordinated commitment to permanently clean up the Tar Creek Superfund site. This announcement reaffirms years of hard work by local, Tribal, State and federal partners. I am pleased to part of this monumental occasion. Senator Inhofe has been a longtime champion for these communities and instrumental in bringing about this final clean up plan."

Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene
Press Release, February 22, 2008

TAR CREEK TRIUMPH

"Sen. Jim Inhofe had good news this week for people wanting to move out of Picher and other areas in the Tar Creek Superfund site. Inhofe, R-Tulsa, announced that the Environmental Protection Agency will fund the buyout of homes and pay for soil and water remediation in the area. Buyout offers at Tar Creek ended last year when federal money was held up by congressional wrangling. This new plan is expected to eliminate the need to go back each year to request the necessary funding. Inhofe got the ball rolling with EPA by inserting a provision in a water resources law last year. It took the senator a long time to buy into the concerns at Tar Creek. Since then, though, Inhofe has been a determined and effective leader in efforts to assist those who wish to move elsewhere."

The Oklahoman, February 23, 2008

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(EPW: Tar Creek Cont'd)

ENTER JIM INHOFE

"Getting innocent people out of harm's way at Tar Creek is clearly the job of the federal government. That's the sort of mission for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its Superfund were created. But after years of work, the mess left by decades of lead and zinc mining by now-gone companies remains, and so are the endangered people. Pollution and the danger of collapsing mines made the Tar Creek area around Picher and Cardin toxic and treacherous. Enter Jim Inhofe. Inhofe specified a plan to take care of the Tar Creek residents in the Water Resources Development Act last year. The EPA unveiled the plan Friday, but make no mistake, the work was Inhofe's, not that of the Washington bureaucrats. Hold the phone. That's an earmark. That's just the sort of sweetheart, local-constituency pork that some politicians say is ruining the federal government. Apparently, they would rather wait for the EPA to get around to solving the problem on its own without any congressional leadership. That would have been a wait that might never have ended, a wait that certainly would have meant more lives ruined by the Tar Creek disaster. Inhofe wasn't waiting. He acted in the best interests of his constituents and the state. His leadership will mean children will live in a safe, clean environment. That's a proud legacy for him to take with him when he leaves public office. Those other folks would rather be right -- as defined by their own peculiar meaning of that word -- than help their constituents."

The Tulsa World, February 23, 2008

Worked to Bring Down Gas Prices and Increase Domestic Energy Production:

When gas and energy prices were highest, Senator Inhofe was one of the leading voices in Washington advocating on behalf of American families to lower prices. From his leadership position on the EPW committee Sen. Inhofe introduced legislation to make America's energy supply stable, diverse, and affordable and create jobs in Oklahoma. Oklahomans appreciate that tomorrow's energy mix must include more natural gas, wind, geothermal and renewable energy, but realize that oil, coal, and nuclear must also be included.

Sen. Inhofe introduced several bills to increase domestic energy production:

American Affordable Fuels Act of 2008 (See box to right)

Drive America on Natural Gas Act of 2008

Marginal Well Production Preservation and Enhancement Act

Gas PRICE Act

Alternative Minimum Tax and Extenders Tax Relief Act of 2008

Domestic Energy Production Act of 2008

Gas Price Reduction Act of 2008

The Inhofe American Affordable Fuels Act of 2008 would have:

- ✓ Encouraged new refining capacity for alternative, renewable, and conventional fuels
- ✓ Encouraged the development of cellulosic biofuel production and refining
- ✓ Continued to keep our marginal oil and gas wells producing
- ✓ Opened domestic sources of oil and gas, and
- ✓ Encouraged the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel.

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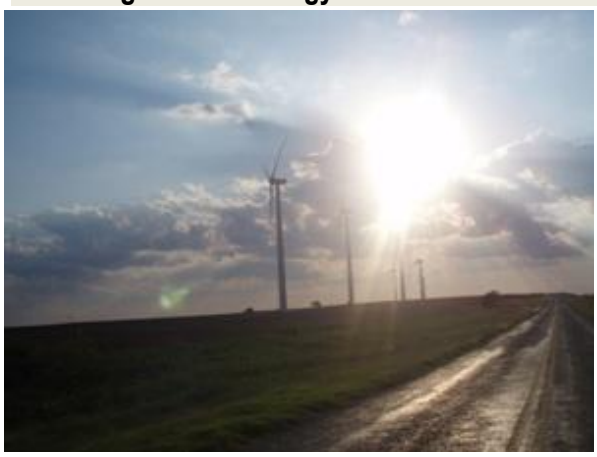
(EPW: Energy Cont'd)

Encouraged Wind Energy



With 689 megawatts (MW) of production, Oklahoma ranks as one of the top states in wind energy production. Despite a 45% growth in total wind power generating capacity in 2007, total US installed wind capacity still accounts for less than 2% of the nation's electricity supply. But, as this strong trend in growth suggests, the future for increased wind power generation in Oklahoma and nationwide remains promising.

Perhaps the lead constraining factor in the development of Oklahoma's enormous wind potential is the lack of electrical transmission lines to move power from wind-rich, remote locations to energy intensive population centers. To meet this need, Sen. Inhofe worked with colleagues to include in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT) a provision to dramatically increase private sector investment in high voltage lines by decreasing the depreciation period for these lines to 15 years.

He has also consistently supported the extension of the renewable electricity Production Tax Credit. This tax credit provides for a 1.9 cent per kilowatt-hour tax credit for the first ten years a turbine goes into service. It helps wind energy developers overcome today's high up-front costs as the industry continues to mature. Not only has he supported wind energy development, but Sen. Inhofe has fought Congressional efforts to derail major wind projects such as Cape Wind off the coast of Massachusetts.

Further, Sen. Inhofe joined with Republican colleagues in cosponsoring legislation, the Alternative Minimum Tax and Extenders Tax Relief Act of 2008 (S. 3098), and voted for H.R. 6049 which successfully extended the renewable production tax credit for another year.

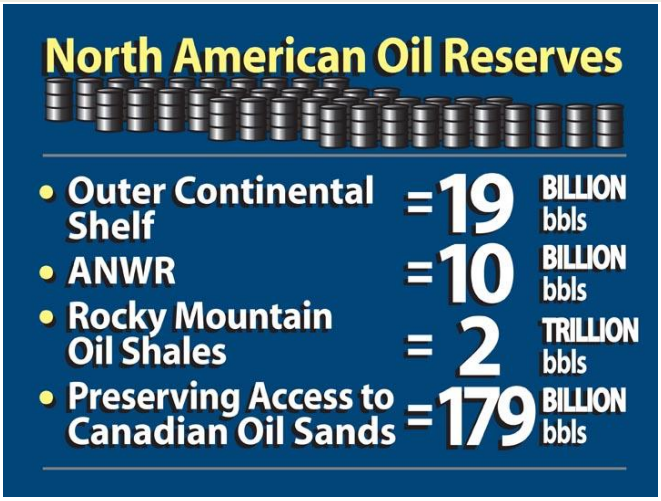
Promoted Renewable Fuels Crops

Sen. Inhofe sponsored and secured Senate passage of the first national transitional assistance program to help farmers grow dedicated energy crops for cellulosic biofuels which became part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. This measure is vital to the development of cellulosic biofuels in the United States because it would encourage U.S. agricultural producers within a 50-mile radius of a cellulosic biorefinery to produce non-food energy crops for clean-burning fuels.

Achieved Expiration of Offshore Drilling and Oil Shale Bans

Access to Offshore Drilling and Oil Shale a 'Victory for the American People' Inhofe Said

On September 24, 2008, supporters of domestic energy production welcomed the expiration of the ban on offshore oil drilling and the leasing of oil shale. Senator Inhofe was a leading proponent of the lifting of the moratorium on offshore exploration and oil shale development.



Sen. Inhofe used the chart to the right to illustrate the potential of America's resources. The enormous reserves of the Outer Continental Shelf alone are equivalent to 35 years' worth of oil imports from Saudi Arabia. The Dept. of Energy estimates that the oil shales in the American West contain nearly 2 trillion potentially recoverable barrels, which at current rates of consumption, could equal more than 200 years of domestic supply.

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(EPW: Energy Cont'd)

Praise for Inhofe's Strong Record on Energy:

"The State of Oklahoma Commission on Marginally Producing Oil and Gas Wells would like to express its appreciation on behalf of Oklahoma marginal oil and gas well operators to Senator Inhofe and Congressman Boren for their bipartisan leadership as they work to make America less dependent on foreign oil and improve national security." (James M. Revard Marginal Well Comission/ Executive Director, 7/31/08)

"On behalf of the Association of Energy Service Companies, I would like to extend my support to the Marginal Well Production Preservation and Enhancement Act introduced by Senator Inhofe and Representative Boren. Marginal wells are a vital resource to our domestic oil and gas industry, and I applaud these Congressmen for recognizing their importance and working to promote their use." (Charlie Swift, Association of Energy Service Companies/ President, 7/31/08)

"The National Stripper Well Association would like to thank Congressman Boren and Senator Inhofe for sponsoring the Marginal Well Production Preservation and Enhancement Act." (Dewey Bartlett Jr., The National Stripper Well Association/ Chairman, 7/31/08)

"I was glad to meet with Senator Inhofe and visit with him about the important work and education taking place at Southeastern. Our school benefits from the work he does in Congress and the whole community benefits as a result. Rising gas prices strain our university and operating costs as much as the rest of the nation, so it's good to know Senator Inhofe is fighting to bring sensible solutions to the energy crisis." (Dr. Michael D. Turner Southeastern Oklahoma State University/ President, 8/26/08)

Yucca Mountain:

"I have supported this program for years and will continue to do so because I believe it is essential to the rebirth of nuclear energy and to the clean up of the nuclear wastes resulting from the Cold War."
– Senator Inhofe

NARUC Praised Inhofe for Introducing Yucca Mountain Legislation

In a March 17, 2008 letter, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) wrote to commend Senator Inhofe for his leadership in introducing Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2008. Specifically, NARUC praises the bill for containing *"many necessary and practical provisions that if enacted would help put the Yucca Mountain geologic repository program back on track as envisioned in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982."* NARUC is an association representing the State public service commissioners who regulate essential utility services, such as electricity, gas, telecommunications, water, and transportation, throughout the country, who have long supported efforts to ensure the development and opening of Yucca Mountain.

On January 24, 2008, Senator Inhofe, together with Senators John Barrasso (R-WY), Larry Craig (R-ID), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Kit Bond (R-MO), Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Jim DeMint (R-SC), introduced the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2008, a bill that reforms the licensing process for authorizing construction, operation, and closure of the Yucca Mountain repository.

Further progress was made on September 8, 2008, when the Nuclear Regulatory Commission NRC Accepted the DOE's Application to build a repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. And on September 17, Senators Inhofe, Craig, and Crapo Offered an amendment to restore the $50M cut in Defense contribution for the Yucca Mountain Repository Program.

Senator Inhofe Led Effort to Pass Highway Technical Corrections Bill:

On April 14, Senator Inhofe spoke on the floor of the Senate urging the speedy passage of the Highway Technical Corrections Bill, HR 1195. Three days later the bill overwhelmingly passed the Senate by a vote of 88-2.

"Meeting the transportation needs of our country is one of the most important responsibilities of the federal government," Senator Inhofe said. "In 2005, President Bush signed into law the highway bill that went a long way to ensuring that our nation has a safe, modern national transportation infrastructure system, one that is vital for economic growth. The legislation we passed today with overwhelming bi-partisan support includes recommended technical changes to the 2005 highway bill from the Department of Transportation that address the functional problems in implementing the bill.

"The 2005 highway bill was a historic victory for Oklahoma. I am grateful to have worked with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to make three small, but necessary, corrections to the highway bill for Oklahoma. Doing so will now allow these projects to get underway as soon as possible.

Background:
The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act signed into law August 10, 2005, authorized $286.5 billion in transportation infrastructure spending for fiscal years 2005 to 2009. As one of the largest non-Defense discretionary bills to move through Congress, it is not unusual to revisit a bill after the fact to make technical corrections to address problems in implementation, misidentified project authorizations, and minor drafting errors. Included in this bill are recommended technical changes from the Department of Transportation that address the functional problems in implementing the bill; technical changes to SAFETEA projects which will continue to be delayed from breaking ground due to simple drafting errors in their description. Furthermore, without passage of the technical corrections bill, universities and other transportation research will not receive their fully intended funding, and states will be unable to use millions of dollars of transportation funds that were authorized 3 years ago.

EPA Improved Risk Assessment Process:

In April, Sen. Inhofe welcomed the Environmental Protection Agency's announcement of changes to the risk assessment process under the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). The Senator had been calling for these changes since he became chairman of the committee in 2003 to increase EPA's transparency and proactive outreach to the scientific community and the public in regards to a database that monitors chemicals in the environment:

"The development of important risk assessment information should have always been transparent to the public and regulated communities. Contacting federal stakeholders, the scientific community and the public early in the risk assessment process will help identify available data and research, making the science on which these risk assessments are based more credible. It will also prevent delays later in the process. EPA will now be a more responsive, transparent and effective agency as a result of these changes," Senator Inhofe said.

Hearings Highlighted Issues Important to Oklahoma:

"I have long said that America's energy supply should be stable, diverse, and affordable. I believe we must utilize all domestic energy resources. Through my leadership position on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I have worked to craft legislation and conduct hearings to meet these goals. Developing and expanding domestic energy resources, like biofuels, will translate into energy security and will ensure stable sources of supply and well-paying jobs for Oklahomans and Americans." - Senator Inhofe

Senator Inhofe made sure Oklahomans were represented at several important hearings in 2008.

Hearing on the President's Proposed EPA Budget for FY 2009 on February 27, 2008: Senator Inhofe, Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, discussed several Oklahoma priorities with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Stephen Johnson, during the Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on the President's Proposed EPA Budget for FY 2009. At the hearing, Senator Inhofe thanked Administrator Johnson for EPA's continued progress at Tar Creek and took the opportunity to raise several Oklahoma-specific concerns including onerous surveys on natural gas producers, overly aggressive bio-fuels mandates, cuts to the Clean Water SRF program, and costly mandates impacting local municipality water supplies such as the arsenic rule.

EPA Oversight Hearing on Implementing the Renewable Fuel Standard on July 10, 2008: Senator Inhofe welcomed the opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities in developing a reasonable Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). Senator Inhofe described the hearing as "long overdue," and called for a serious look at the "mounting questions surrounding ethanol's effect on livestock feed prices, its effect on food prices, its economic feasibility, its transportation and infrastructure needs, its water usage, and its numerous environmental impacts." The Environment and Public Works Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over transportation fuels, including renewable fuels. Senator Inhofe had dealt with this issue before. As Chairman of the EPW Committee, Senator Inhofe co-authored the Reliable Fuels Act, which was ultimately incorporated into the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Act created a comprehensive program to increase the use of renewable fuels in a measured and economic approach. Sen. Inhofe had voted against the most recent Energy Bill in December 2007 because it hastily and irresponsibly increased biofuels mandates, and as he described, the affects were clear, "in my home state of Oklahoma, many cattlemen, pork producers, and poultry producers are struggling with record high corn prices. The Committee needs to hear from the livestock producers, the corn growers, the ethanol producers, the states, the oil refiners, the economists, and others to fully understand and appreciate the consequences of this program."

- **Related News: Inhofe Introduced Technical Corrections to the Clean Air Act's Renewable Fuels Standard:** When it became clear that the bio-fuels increase mandated by the 2007 energy bill were overly aggressive and affecting a fuels industry already constrained by tight supplies, full capacity, environmental regulation, and volatile market conditions, Senator Inhofe introduced a bill to provide technical corrections to the Clean Air Act's Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). He called it a "simple fix" that would provide flexibility for the fuels industry in meeting the new mandates.

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(Cont'd Hearings)

Hearing on The Midwest Floods: What Happened and What Might Be Improved for Managing Risk and Responses in the Future on July 23, 2008: "Last year, my home state of Oklahoma experienced record-breaking floods, but the Corps was right there to help lessen the impacts. The Tulsa District did an excellent job of, in particular, managing water levels at the reservoirs in order to prevent hundreds of millions of dollars in additional damages. …It is our job as policymakers to provide the technical experts at the Corps of Engineers with enough guidance and the proper tools to promote the national interest in the use of the waterways. Today we get a chance to hear a status update on this particular flooding incident, as well as any recommendations for future improvements." Excerpt from Senator Inhofe's opening statement.

Praise for Sen. Inhofe's Leadership on Water Issues: "The Original Township and Midland Addition areas of the City of Bixby have suffered repetitive drainage problems for the one hundred years that the city has been in existence. The drainage system or lack thereof has been a reality that citizens have had to live with during that time. The city with the assistance of our federal elected officials particularly U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe have now made tremendous strides in alleviating those problems." (Micky Webb, City of Bixby/ City Manger 8/28/08)

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure hearing entitled, "Economic Development Administration Oversight, September 9, 2008: Just three weeks before the EDA's authorization was set to expire Senator Inhofe was pleased to have the opportunity to welcome Mayor Larry Thoma of Elgin, Oklahoma to testify on the positive work done by the Economic Development Administration. Senator Inhofe described what kind of impact EDA has had in Oklahoma, "Taken all together, EDA's public works and economic adjustment grants awarded in my home state over the past five and a half years have resulted in almost 9,000 jobs being created or saved. With an investment of about $24.6 million, we have leveraged almost 29 million in State and local dollars and more than 433 million in private sector dollars. I would call that a wonderful success story."

- **S. 3264 Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008:** Sen. Inhofe introduced this bill on July 15 to extend EDA for another 5 years. EDA works with partners in local communities to create wealth and minimize poverty by promoting favorable business environments to attract private investment and encourage long-term economic growth.

Full Committee hearing entitled, "Improving the Federal Bridge Program: Including an Assessment of S. 3338 and H.R. 3999," on September 10, 2008: Senator Inhofe welcomed Oklahoma Department of Transportation director Gary Ridley (pictured to the right) before the committee to discuss the Federal Bridge Program and in a strongly worded message urged his colleagues to act quickly to address the highway shortfall the country faced: "We must act this week and I am working to convince my colleagues of the urgency of the situation and would encourage all those listening who understand the importance of a robust transportation infrastructure program to contact their Senators and urge them to support HR 6532, which will restore $8 billion taken from the HTF in 1998. This is not a long term fix but it will give us time to come up with a permanent funding fix."

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley Testifying Before EPW Committee

Defense and Foreign Relations:

As a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), Sen. Inhofe took the lead on several issues vital to carrying out the military's missions around the globe and ensuring the troops receive the best training and equipment the nation can provide.

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

SUPPORTED WOUNDED WARRIORS:

Through his position on the SASC, Sen. Inhofe made helping American troops cope and recover from the trauma of war a top priority. In addition to his support for companies such as Oklahoma's OrthoCare Innovations who develop advanced prosthetics, Senator Inhofe sought the expansion of federal programs that address the needs of America's wounded warriors.

Among the legislation that President Bush signed into law, was Senator Inhofe's amendment to establish a Traumatic Extremity Injury and Amputee Center of Excellence for soldiers wounded in combat to build on the Wounded Warriors Act which passed in 2007. The Center will use federal funding to research these injuries and treat service members. Approximately 82% of injuries from the Global War on Terror involve the extremities often severe, multiple injuries to the arms, legs, head and neck. Shrapnel from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) is often the culprit. The House Report accompanying the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations Bill states that "Extremity injuries are the number one battlefield injury...dynamic research and treatment is necessary to provide service members the greatest ability to recover from injuries sustained on the battlefield."

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LAUNCHED AFRICOM:

U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) was launched in 2008 - something Senator Inhofe had long supported - whose principal focus is training peacekeeping forces so that countries in Africa can take the lead role in dealing with conflicts and problems. Inhofe sponsored legislation (S.Res.480) recognizing the strategic importance of the African continent and welcoming the establishment of AFRICOM. AFRICOM is a partnership between military and civilian communities that focuses on existing U.S. programs, such as training peacekeeping forces, and enables African nations and regional organizations to improve security on the continent. AFRICOM's unique characteristic of combining both military and civil components presents the U.S. military with the ability to play a strategic role in partnering with African allies to help prevent and respond to humanitarian crises, improve cooperative efforts to defend against terrorism, and support efforts to bolster unity and security among African governments.

In a statement given on April 2, Senator Inhofe said, *"During my many trips to the continent of Africa, I have seen the significant and strategic place in the world that Africa holds, especially in the global fight against terrorism. …AFRICOM is another tool that the United States can use to aid Africa as it continues to grow into a secure, democratic continent with a growing economy."*

The Senate Armed Services Committee, with his support, reinforced the importance of AFRICOM with the inclusion of funding for the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal year 2009 and the passage of the Defense Appropriations Act.

UPDATED GI BENEFITS:

Oklahoma is home to more than 300,000 veterans. In his Senate career, Senator Inhofe has voted more than 60 times to increase federal funding for veterans, which has gone up more than 140 percent during his term. Senator Inhofe worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass several bills to improve veterans' services and benefits. President Bush signed into law a provision Sen. Inhofe authored to allow veterans and military members out of uniform to salute the flag during the National Anthem. He sponsored the amendment to ensure veterans and all members of the Armed Forces be given the right to render a military salute to the United States flag at all times. Surprisingly, previous discrepancies of protocol in the U.S. Code had prevented our veterans from saluting the flag.

Additionally, Congress passed important enhancements to several benefits including housing, driving, life and burial insurance, but the biggest achievement for veterans was the modernization of the GI Benefits which were included in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 (H.R. 2642). Sen. Inhofe proudly cosponsored legislation to update the 20 year-old Montgomery GI Bill and worked to include the option to transfer these benefits to spouses and children.

Also signed into law was The Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008, which is a bipartisan bill that Sen. Inhofe cosponsored to make it easier for veterans and to receive better mental health care with fewer hassles.

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(Cont'd Veterans)

"I am thankful to Senator Jim Inhofe for his support of military families in co-sponsoring Senator Bill Nelson's amendment to the Defense Authorization bill to eliminate the unfair Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) offset. Veterans groups have been fighting for this legislation for several years, which has been dropped in conference committee. Keep fighting Senator Inhofe! Our military needs you."

U.S. Navy Captain (Ret.) Bill Mercer

"On behalf of America's Medal of Honor Recipients and FlightSafety's teammates in Oklahoma and around the world, we are very pleased that these bills received the support of Senator Inhofe and have been signed into law by the President. The Veterans Mental Health bill is a major step toward providing the type of mental health care our veterans deserve. We particularly want to commend Senator Inhofe for his successful efforts on the salute the flag legislation. If it were not for Senator Inhofe's commitment, 25 million American veterans would not be able to render the military salute to the American flag."

Bruce Whitman, Co-Chairman, Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation
and President and CEO, FlightSafety International.

"Senator James Inhofe has served diligently for many years as a veterans advocate in the United States Senate. …During the past several months, the Senator has provided staff to conduct veteran forum meetings across the State of Oklahoma. These forums have provided invaluable assistance and information to several hundred our Oklahoma veterans. Senator Inhofe's case workers have willingly assisted those veterans who have unresolved issues pertaining to their former military service. As a Vietnam veteran, I would like to salute the Senator for his years of dedication to our military veterans and to those still on active duty in the defense of our country."

Richard Elsheimer, Past State Commander,
Department of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars

DEFENSE BILLS BENEFITED OKLAHOMA AND AMERICAN SECURITY:

Defense Appropriations and FY09 NDAA:

In the 2008 defense appropriation and authorization bills, Sen. Inhofe worked to ensure U.S. military members were equipped with the tools they needed to succeed in their missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe. The bill that passed in September authorized the acquisition of new aircraft, expanded America's fleet of ships, fully funded the Army's Future Combat Systems, and continued to grow the force. This will greatly serve the brave men and women fighting abroad for America's freedom.

- **$350 Million for Oklahoma Military:** As one of the top employers in the state, Oklahoma's military does more than train soldiers; it is the lifeblood of many of its communities. Sen. Inhofe was pleased to work with the delegation and other members of Congress to provide more than $350 million for Oklahoma's military installations which would go towards additional military construction at the bases, continuation of BRAC, and ensured the viability of the state's military installations for years to come.

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(Cont'd Defense Bills)

- **Increased TRICARE Benefits and Pay:** Pushed for improved benefits under TRICARE without raising fees. Congress was also able to approve a 3.9% across-the-board pay raise for service men and women.
- **Improved Care for Wounded Warriors:** Successfully added several amendments during committee consideration in May, including legislation to establish a Traumatic Extremity Injury and Amputee Center of Excellence and to require the Department of Defense (DOD) to provide a report on nutritional care for wounded warriors.
- **Supported Military Fathers:** Established a paternity leave policy providing 10 days of administrative leave for new fathers.
- **Helped Local School Districts:** The defense bills also provided $55 million in DOD supplemental educational aid that would directly benefit local school districts affected by the assignment or location of military families.

War Supplemental:

"Our veterans have done so much for our country and deserve the utmost support. These selfless men and women will now have an even greater opportunity to further pursue an education. These enhanced benefits are twenty years in the making and maintain our commitment to our servicemen in and out of uniform," Sen. Inhofe said on the updates to the Montgomery GI Bill.

The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 (H.R. 2642) which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support (92-6)on May 22, 2008 included important funding provisions for U.S. military operations and other critical funding needs. Senator Inhofe particularly praised the inclusion of the following:

- **Modernized the Outdated Montgomery GI Bill:** Provided $62.8 billion over eleven years and was applied to anyone who served the required period of active duty since September 11, 2001. Importantly, this legislation expanded GI Bill benefits to include a transferability provision which Senator Inhofe worked to include, allowing troops to transfer GI benefits to spouses and children and providing a significant retention incentive to these troops.
- **Funded Military and Veteran's Affairs Construction:** Appropriated vital funding for Military and Veteran's Affairs construction, including $9 million for a child development center at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
- **Provided $7 Million for Oklahoma Reconstruction:** Gave $7 million in emergency appropriations to address maintenance and repair for Corps of Engineers dams and critical infrastructure throughout Oklahoma damaged from severe weather.

FISA:

Senator Inhofe voted in favor of H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which amended the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, and provided the U.S. Intelligence Community the critically needed authority to acquire foreign intelligence information while protecting the privacy of American citizens. Even though the vote was long overdue, Senator Inhofe praised the bipartisan support it received and called it a "tremendous victory for ensuring the security of our nation." (Vote Number: 168, July 9, 2008)

TINKER FACILITY OPENED DOORS TO MORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

"Undoubtedly, this is great news for Tinker, Oklahoma City and the entire state as this will likely lead to new jobs and greater economic development. …Today is about a beginning and about the future and I thank everyone who played a role in the GM Plant acquisition."

Senator Inhofe remarks at the Ceremony October 2008

Economic development opportunities quickly became a reality late 2008 as Tinker Air Force Base signed a lease with Oklahoma County to turn the old GM plant into a new Aerospace Complex. Sen. Inhofe participated in a ceremony at Tinker Air Force base to recognize the Sept. 24 signing of a low-cost, long-term Air Force lease with Oklahoma County for 407 acres of land and 3.8 million gross square feet of real property, of which 3.5 million square feet is industrial and administrative space. Senator Inhofe, who was instrumental in making the lease signing a reality, joined Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Lt. Gen. Terry Gabreski, Air Force Materiel Command vice commander, Maj. Gen Reno, Oklahoma Air Logistics Center Commander, Lt. Gov. Askins, County Commissioner Vaughn, State Treasurer Scott Meacham, as well as several other military and civic leaders.

Secretary Donley said the community initiative to acquire the facility and lease it to the Air Force is "... yet another example of how the great state of Oklahoma and Tinker's surrounding communities work together in an unprecedented partnership to preserve and enhance our national security." He also said the facility will enhance operations at Tinker and provide long term benefits to the Air Force.

With the prospects of creating nearly 3,000 jobs over the next ten years, the new partnership is expected to greatly add to the Oklahoma City region and the already booming aerospace industry in the state.

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

FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEMS ADVANCED IN OKLAHOMA:

"Each year, more FCS technologies are scheduled to be in the hands of our operational forces, enhancing current capabilities. We must build upon the synergies of each individual system, working together as a network, operated by the greatest and best-trained Soldiers in the world. We must give our Soldiers the capability to be able to fight the wars of today and the wars of the future. FCS is that capability."

--Senator James Inhofe

Future Combat Systems (FCS) is the greatest transformation the United States Army has ever known. The program is comprised of 14 combat vehicles and 50 cutting-edge technologies, yet it is more than an assortment of new weapons. At its core is a fully-integrated network of computers and sensors that will give unprecedented battle space awareness to every commander in the field and at headquarters.

There has been no greater proponent of FCS than Senator Inhofe. Serving as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Inhofe has overseen the full authorization of the Army's budget request for FCS every year it has come before the Committee.

NLOS CANNON PRODUCTION BEGAN IN ELGIN, OKLAHOMA:

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. NLOS-C is the first FCS Manned Ground Vehicle prototype to be completed.

In 2004, as chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Inhofe worked to make $2.25 million available for the development of the Elgin Industrial Park. These funds helped spur the initial development of the facility for the NLOS-C. This has brought numerous jobs to the Elgin area and established Southwest Oklahoma as the core of our nation's next generation of field artillery.

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

During the summer, Senator Inhofe was proud to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Elgin facility where the cannons are being integrated. The proximity of the industrial park to Fort Sill enables the cannons to roll off the assembly line, onto the testing range, and into the hands of our soldiers. 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.

"Senator Inhofe has long been a champion for economic development in Oklahoma. I know, and the people of southwest Oklahoma know, that the Elgin facility would not have happened without the leadership of Jim Inhofe. By working together, we were able to make this a true success story."

Larry Thoma, Mayor of Elgin, 9/10/08

MISSILE DEFENSE:

In December 2007, March 2008, and again in July 2008, Senator Inhofe traveled to Europe to discuss the importance of missile defense with leaders from Poland and the Czech Republic as well as American commanders in Europe. They discussed overall missile defense, ground based missile defense capabilities, the radar site in Czech Republic and the interceptor site in Poland. To Senator Inhofe, who has long viewed the deployment of missile defense as an urgent national priority, the recent agreement with Poland was certainly welcome news. The agreements with Poland and the Czech Republic were critical steps toward strengthening U.S. security.

As a senior member of the Senate Armed Service Committee, Senator Inhofe recently oversaw the authorization of $10.7 billion for missile defense in the FY09 National Defense Authorization Bill. Final fiscal year 2009 appropriations provided an additional $120 million for MDA's near-term programs -- Ground-based Missile Defense, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, and Theater High Altitude Area Defense. It also added $58 million for the U.S.-Israeli Cooperative Missile Defense Programs, Upper-tier and Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense. Further, the bill provided $467 million for the European Missile Defense sites and development and testing of the two-stage interceptor.

Senator Inhofe was a vocal supporter of offsets that resulted in funding additions for near-term, proven missile defense capabilities, and other high priority programs, with reductions to lower priority or longer term missile defense programs, which gave the United States a greater operational missile defense capability sooner, and ensured that American's tax dollars were being used on systems that are proven effective.

Op/Eds:

November 2008
11/21/08 "Take It Back" (National Review Online)

September 2008
09/12/08 "Marginal Wells Bill Makes Sense" w/ Rep. Boren (The Oklahoman)

August 2008
08/12/08 "Natural Gas Provides Solutions to High Gasoline Prices" (Human Events)

July 2008
07/08/08 "Natural gas production essential to Oklahoma and the country" (The Journal Record)

June 2008
06/22/08 "Filling up America's energy tank"
06/18/08 "A Fix for the Highway Bill is a Top Priority" (The Journal Record)
06/16/08 "Army Transition Means Changes" (The Lawton Constitution)
06/16/08 "Dems Running on Empty" (Human Events)
06/15/08 "America's Carbon Policy" (Tulsa World)
06/03/08 "We Don't Need a Climate Tax on the Poor" (The Wall Street Journal)

May 2008
04/22/08 "Tax Freedom Day" (Issued statewide)

Floor Speeches:

December
12/11/08 "Reject $14 Billion Auto bailout"

November
11/20/08 "Hostile Green Takeover: The Auto Industry Faces Environmental Thuggery"
11/17/08 "Halt the Handout of Bailout Funds"

September
09/25/08 "Partisan Environmental Groups"
09/17/08 "Sudan: On the Brink of Resolve"

July
07/24/08 "On Increasing America Energy Supply"
07/16/08 "Common Sense Legislation to Help Oklahoma Farmers"

June
06/26/08 "Political Crisis in Zimbabwe"
06/02/08 "Climate Debate"

May
05/22/08 "Success in Iraq: A Little Known Secret"
05/22/08 On Introduction of the (Inhofe) Gas PRICE Act

(Cont'd next page)

(Cont'd Speeches)

April
04/29/08 On Biofuels: "Washington Fuels Food Difficulties"
04/14/08 On the SAFETEA Technical Corrections Bill

February
02/25/08 "AFRICOM"

January
01/24/08 "Introduction of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2008"

Sponsored Legislation:

- S 3697 - A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.
- S 3683 - A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.
- S 3395 - Marginal Well Production Preservation and Enhancement Act
- S 3280 - American Affordable Fuels Act of 2008
- S 3281 - Drive America on Natural Gas Act
- S 3271 - A bill to amend the definition of commercial motor vehicle in section 31101 of Title 49, United States Code, to exclude certain farm vehicles, and for other purposes.
- S 3264 - Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008
- S Res 590 - A resolution celebrating the 233rd birthday of the army and commending the men and women of the army as exceptional individuals who live by the army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.
- S Res 581 - A resolution designating June 6, 2008, as "National Huntington's Disease Awareness Day."
- S Con Res 78 - A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China and all enterprises owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China should make proper disclosures with the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding the selective default status of certain bonds.
- S 2876 - Help to Access Land for the Education of (HALE) Scouts
- S 2827 - A bill to repeal a requirement with respect to the procurement and acquisition of alternative fuels.
- S Res 480 - A resolution recognizing the strategic importance of the African continent and welcoming the establishment of AFRICOM, and for other purposes.
- S 2727 - Preserving Access to Hospice (PATH) Act of 2008
- S 2715 - National Language Act of 2008
- S 2681 - Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008
- S 2651 - A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to make technical corrections to the renewable fuel standard.
- S 2551 - Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2008

Cosponsored Legislation:

- S 2575 –Montgomery GI Bill Educational Assistance Transferability Act of 2008
- S 2596 – Semper Fi Act
- S 2640 –Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008
- S 2705 – Troops to Nurse Teachers Act of 2008
- S 2836 –National Guard and Reserve Retired Pay Equity Act of 2008
- S 3073 –Military Voting Protection Act of 2008
- S 3356 - National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center Commemorative Coin Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-357)

Awards and Recognitions:

60 Plus Association "Guardian of Seniors' Rights"

Alliance for Worker Freedom "Guardian of Worker Freedom"

American Farm Bureau 'Friend of Farm Bureau'

Americans for Prosperity "Washington Award"

Americans for Tax Reform's (ATR) "Hero of the Taxpayer Award"

Family Research Council Action and Focus on the Family Action "True Blue" Award

Guardian of Small Business by National Federation of Independent Business

National Association of Manufacturers "Legislative Excellence Award"

National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) "Charles Dick Medal of Merit"

National Tax Limitation Committee's "Tax Fighter Award"

Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association's (OIPA) "2008 Friend of the Wildcatter"

Order of Brilliant Star for Promoting US-Taiwan Relations

U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Spirit of Enterprise Award"

Thank you for viewing Senator Inhofe's Annual Report. To learn about the current issues taking place in your Federal Government please go to Senator Inhofe's website: www.inhofe.senate.gov.