

JAMES M. INHOFE
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
205 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603
(202) 224-4721

TULSA OFFICE
1924 SOUTH UTICA, SUITE 530
TULSA, OK 74104
(918) 748-5111

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE
1900 N.W. EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 1210
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73118
(405) 608-4381

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

July 6, 2011

The Honorable Joseph Westphal
Under Secretary of the Army
101 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0101

Dear Secretary Westphal,

Thank you for your timely visit to Fort Sill in May and taking the time to walk through and observe the poor condition of the Geronimo Road and Sheridan Road Elementary Schools. Because these schools are owned and operated by Lawton Public Schools, I know that the Army's options are limited. However, your advocacy within the Army and the Department of Defense is critical to turning these schools around.

Last week, these two schools were highlighted in a recent article in *Newsweek*. I am working with Fort Sill and the community of Lawton to find near and far term solutions to the conditions at these schools. I am encouraged by the attention that Lawton is giving this important issue. I know they are committed to providing the best facilities for the children that attend these public schools.

There was one aspect to this case that was missing in the *Newsweek* article that bears pointing out. Despite the state of the facilities, the quality of instruction provided to the Lawton-Fort Sill children is exceptional. I am very proud of the efforts of those committed teachers, administrators, and support personnel that serve at the Geronimo Road and Sheridan Road Elementary Schools, and I appreciate the kind words that you had for them during our visit.

Again, thank you for your attention on this matter, and I trust that we will continue to apprise one-another of any pertinent developments.

Sincerely,



James Inhofe
United States Senator