

SENATOR INHOFE: CREATING JOBS FOR A GROWING ECONOMY

111TH ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT



United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

www.epw.senate.gov/inhofe

Minority Staff

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Contact:

Matt Dempsey Matt_Dempsey@epw.senate.gov (202) 224-9797

David Lungren David_Lungren@epw.senate.gov (202) 224-5642

Report online at: www.epw.senate.gov/inhofe

SENATOR INHOFE: CREATING JOBS FOR A GROWING ECONOMY

In the 111th Congress, Senator Inhofe advocated policies to help businesses create jobs and grow our economy. As the most conservative member of the U.S. Senate, according to [National Journal in 2010](#), he understands that Washington should ensure that regulations and bureaucracy don't strangle job creation and economic growth.



Inhofe in Copenhagen at the UN Climate Conference Addresses the Media: "The US Senate Will Not Pass Cap-and-Trade Legislation"
[\(Link to Facebook photos\)](#)

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), Senator Inhofe's primary concern was to stop job-destroying legislation and new regulations. He also helped pass balanced policies to continue environmental progress, repair the nation's infrastructure and strengthen energy security.

Legislative Victories in the 111th Congress

Defeating Global Warming Cap-and-Trade Legislation: For the fourth time in seven years, Sen. Inhofe successfully led the fight in the U.S. Senate to defeat costly global warming cap-and-trade legislation. Numerous independent analyses have shown that cap-and-trade would destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs — especially in regions dependent on coal and manufacturing—and make electricity, food, and gasoline significantly more expensive for consumers. [Link](#)

Bipartisan Clean Diesel Bill Reauthorization: Sen. Inhofe, working closely with Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), former Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-Ohio), and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), helped pass the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010 (DERA), which was signed into law this January. DERA is a model of bipartisan legislation, as it strikes the appropriate balance between continuing the nation's, and Oklahoma's, success in reducing emissions without putting jobs and small businesses at risk. Further, this bill reduces DERA's 2005 authorization levels, which means it's fiscally sound. [Link](#)

Removing Lead From Drinking Water: Sen. Inhofe helped pass bipartisan legislation to strengthen standards for lead in drinking water, and it was also signed into law early this year. The bill will uniformly reduce the allowable lead content in drinking water pipes, pipe fittings and plumbing fixtures without imposing a burden on America's manufacturers. [Link](#)

"Finally! Congress has passed an extension to a highway funding bill that will vastly improve the abilities of state transportation agencies to get their job done. In Oklahoma's case, the approval will mean millions more each month for road-building projects... U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., has been a staunch supporter of enacting a longer extension of highway funding and has been a key and influential player in his role as the top Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee...Fortunately, the views of leaders such as Inhofe, who understand the value of maintaining and improving one of the nation's most critical assets, prevailed in this instance. – Tulsa World Editorial, Road funds extension Ok'd (3/19/2010) [Link](#)

Making the Federal Government Pay their Fair Share of Stormwater Fees: Sen. Inhofe worked with Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Water and Wildlife Subcommittee, to enact S. 3481, bipartisan legislation to help local governments pay for costly unfunded federal mandates. The bill, which was signed into law this January, requires that federal agencies pay their fair share of stormwater management fees, has the support of numerous state (including Oklahoma) and local government associations. [Link](#)



*Senator Inhofe and ODOT Director Gary Ridley
Making Radio Calls about Transportation Infrastructure
([Link to Facebook photos](#))*

Successfully Fought to Restore Highway Trust Fund: With Oklahoma jobs and thousands of dollars of infrastructure projects at stake, Sen. Inhofe worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass an 18-month extension of the Federal Highway Program, in order to keep highway projects going through this year's construction season, saving thousands of Oklahoma jobs in the process. [Link](#)

Voted Against Obama: No-Stimulus Bill: In January 2009, President Obama and the Democratic leadership rammed through a \$700 billion "stimulus" bill, which failed to meaningfully restore economic growth. One of the major reasons for this massive failure is that the bill allocated very little funding for job-creating infrastructure projects. "Despite originally being sold as an infrastructure bill," Sen. Inhofe said, "the fact is this bill contains less than 7% for infrastructure in the entire bill. Furthermore, despite all the references to money going to shovel-ready highway and bridge projects, investment in highways comprises only 3% of the package." [Link](#)

Opposed the Clean Water Restoration Act (S. 787), the "biggest power grab in a generation": Sen. Inhofe led the fight against this bill sponsored by former Senator Feingold (D-Wis.), which would have empowered the federal government to regulate practically every body of water in the country, no matter how small. As Sen. Inhofe put it, the bill would have "extend[ed] the scope and reach of federal water jurisdiction beyond anything that ever existed under the Clean Water Act." [Link](#)

"Credit him [Senator Inhofe] for standing up to scientists and celebrities who insist all doubt about man-made warming has been answered. No one in the Senate knows the issue better, and if/when the entire body debates it, evidence is strong the climate will favor Inhofe. – Daily Oklahoman Editorial, Climate shift: Senate likely to warm to Inhofe's view (11/7/2009) [Link](#)

Reining in Obama's Overreaching Bureaucracy:

As Ranking Member of the EPW Committee, Senator Inhofe oversees activities at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other energy and environmental agencies under the Obama Administration. While regulations are needed to protect the environment and ensure clean air and water, Sen. Inhofe has fought against regulations that destroy jobs, raise energy costs for consumers, and provide no meaningful environmental benefits. In the 111th Congress, Sen. Inhofe released [a number of oversight reports](#) highlighting the economically destructive impact of several of the Obama Administration's regulatory policies. The following is a list of the regulations Sen. Inhofe challenged, several of the initiatives he led to beat them back, and efforts to highlight the Obama Administration's overreaching bureaucracy:

The Obama Administration Endangerment Finding: When the Obama Administration could not achieve cap-and-trade through legislation, they implemented a plan to achieve carbon regulation through the back door. EPA's finding that carbon dioxide endangers public health—a finding based on the flawed science of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—set in motion a raft of burdensome regulations that are stifling

job creation, new construction, and technological innovation. Sen. Inhofe has introduced the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 to remove EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide and stop EPA from raising prices for electricity and gasoline. The bill will put Congress, not unaccountable bureaucrats, in charge of deciding the nation's energy policy. [Link](#)

The Obama EPA Revised Ozone Rule: On January 6, 2010, the EPA proposed to tighten the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. The EPA estimates that these rules will cost \$19 to \$90 billion, making them the most expensive EPA regulations ever proposed. If these rules go into effect, many communities across Oklahoma and the nation, which are currently not in violation of ozone standards, will be in "non-attainment," which means that they could be considered on the "dirty air list." At least nine counties in Oklahoma—Canadian, Cherokee, Comanche, Creek, Kay, Mayes, Oklahoma, Ottawa and Tulsa—face this threat, even as air pollution levels continue to decline. In short, "non-attainment" means "closed for business" and Sen. Inhofe continues to lead the fight for the EPA to throw out these revised standards. [Link](#)

A staunch defender of hydraulic fracturing: Hydraulic fracturing is vital to Oklahoma and the nation's development of natural gas. Oklahoma in particular has immense natural gas reserves. Developing these reserves through hydraulic fracturing will do much to strengthen the state's economy. Yet the practice of fracking is under attack by environmental activists who claim that fracturing contaminates drinking water. But this is not the case. Since the first use of hydraulic fracturing in 1949 in Duncun, Oklahoma, there has been no documented case of water contamination. [Link](#)

Lead-Based Paint Rule: Sen. Inhofe held the EPA accountable for its botched implementation of the "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting" (Lead RRP) rule, which went into effect on April 22, 2010. The intent of the rule is to reduce pregnant women's and children's exposure to lead from dust caused by renovations. The rule requires that renovations in homes built before 1978 which disturb more than six square feet of paint be supervised by a certified renovator and conducted by a certified renovation firm. While Sen. Inhofe supports the intent of the rule, he raised serious concerns with the rule's implementation. For example, by April 22, 2010, EPA had accredited only 204 training providers

Sen. Inhofe Earns Farm Bureau 'Golden Plow' Award

The American Farm Bureau Federation has honored Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) with its "Golden Plow" award, the highest recognition the organization bestows on members of Congress. Inhofe was presented the award for his support of America's farmers and ranchers by AFBF President Bob Stallman and Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Mike Spradling.

"Sen. Inhofe is a problem solver who represents agriculture with dedication and passion," Stallman said in presenting the award. "He is an outstanding legislator, an agricultural policy leader and a true friend of Farm Bureau."

AFBF's Golden Plow award recognizes members of Congress – regardless of party affiliation – for distinguished agricultural leadership and support of Farm Bureau policies. Recipients are chosen based on having a philosophy or record that demonstrates a commitment to: the private enterprise system; sound agricultural policies supported by Farm Bureau; fiscal conservatism; and reduced federal regulations on businesses and individuals. [Link](#)

February 17, 2010



Senator Inhofe speaks to farmers in Oklahoma

“We appreciate Inhofe sounding the alarm on the pending standards, and urge him to fight for rational, balanced clean air standards that will protect the breathing public without choking the nation’s industrial capacity.” – Tulsa World Editorial, Smog Cops (1/09/2010) [Link](#)

nationwide. While the lead rule affects more than 70 million homes in America, numerous states were left without a single certification training class instructor. Sen. Inhofe succeeded in passing legislation to postpone enforcement of the lead rule—effectively giving states more time to provide certified trainers and prevent costly penalties for small businesses. Shortly thereafter, the EPA announced a delay in enforcement of the rule, acknowledging Sen. Inhofe’s concerns. [Link](#)

EPA Region 6 Oversight: Sen. Inhofe expressed numerous concerns about officials from EPA’s Region 6 headquarters who were undermining the longstanding federal-state partnership between the agency and Oklahoma. Region 6 also was pursuing policies that were putting jobs and businesses at risk in the state. As Sen. Inhofe wrote, “These actions could threaten jobs and local economies in the states over which Region 6 wields authority. Environmental protection is an important priority, but it shouldn’t exist in a vacuum, absent considerations about jobs and economic growth.” [Link](#)

EPA Consideration of Banning Lead Ammo: When the EPA considered banning lead in ammunition, Sen. Inhofe immediately intervened, noting that EPA lacks the authority to institute such a ban. In August of 2010, the EPA admitted that Sen. Inhofe was right: ammunition could not be regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act. [Link](#)

EPA’s Farm Dust Rule: The EPA is considering imposing the most stringent and unparalleled regulation of dust in our nation’s history. Twenty-one Senators, including Senator Inhofe, wrote a letter to the EPA voicing their strong opposition, explaining that, if approved, these rules would be extremely burdensome for farmers and ranchers across the country. [Link](#)

Opposed EPA’s Rule on Scrap Tires: When the EPA was considering excluding “processed” or shredded tires from the new Subtitle D definition of solid waste, which could ban the use of whole scrap tires as a non-hazardous alternative fuel, particularly in cement kilns, Sen. Inhofe, along with the Oklahoma Congressional delegation, sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson explaining that “Tire-derived fuel facilities in the state of Oklahoma utilize over 50 % of the state of Oklahoma’s waste tires for energy recovery. Not only is this a good recycling practice that conserves our natural resources...This practice is an environmental and economic success story that should not be discouraged.” [Link](#)

Inhofe, Oklahoma Delegation Urge EPA To Keep Water Quality Program: Concerned that the EPA was neglecting funding for the polluted runoff program under the Clean Water Act, which has been crucial to the health of Tulsa’s water quality, Sen. Inhofe, along with the Oklahoma congressional delegation, intervened. They wrote a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, arguing that such measures would impede future efforts to reduce pollution, including those made by Oklahomans who have worked hard to achieve significant improvements to the state’s waters. [Link](#)

Defeated efforts to increase taxes on domestic oil and gas producers and royalty owners: Sen. Inhofe helped defeat efforts to punish small, independent oil and gas producers throughout the country. Sen. Inhofe persuaded his colleagues that the legislation would have destroyed jobs and weakened America’s energy security. By an overwhelming vote of 35 to 61, the Senate defeated legislation to impose a multi-billion dollar tax increase on those producers. [Link](#)

Legislation Introduced

Economic Development in Oklahoma (S. 2778): Sen. Inhofe and his colleagues passed reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the EPW committee. EDA funds projects that attract new industries, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate higher-skill, higher-wage jobs and investments by revitalizing, expanding, and upgrading physical infrastructure, especially in areas facing economic challenges. The city of Woodward received \$1 million for the construction of a community campus, and the communities of Elgin, Adair and Durant have been awarded funds for infrastructure improvements, creating thousands of jobs in the area. [Link](#)

Introduced bill to Support Marginal Wells (S.286): The Marginal Well Production Preservation and Enhancement Act, which Sen. Inhofe introduced with Rep. Dan Boren (D-Okla.), would streamline and clarify government regulations and enhance production volumes from the nation's 719,000 marginal wells. Senator Inhofe said, "In my own state of Oklahoma, it is the small independents, basically mom-and-pop operations that produce the majority of oil and natural gas, with 85 percent of Oklahoma's oil coming from marginal wells." [Link](#)

Promoted Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs) (S. 1809): Sen. Inhofe along with Sens. Wicker and Reps. Boren and Shuler, introduced the Streamline Alternative Fuel Vehicle Conversions Act. The bill seeks to simplify the EPA's emissions certification process, which currently prohibits car owners from legally converting a vehicle to a bi-fuel operation. Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) technology is cleaner than standard gasoline and diesel fuels and will help provide Oklahoma with a new avenue within the energy industry for further economic development and diversity. As Sen. Inhofe said, "This legislation will allow Americans to choose whether propane or natural gas powered vehicles are right for their own individual and business needs while simultaneously preserving the country's stringent emission standards." [Link](#)



Senator Inhofe with Natural Gas Vehicles of America President Richard Kolodziej
[\(Link to Facebook photos\)](#)

Introduced legislation (S. 3736) to increase state flexibility for Ethanol Mandate: With the passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), Congress doubled the corn-based ethanol mandate despite mounting questions surrounding its compatibility with existing engines, its transportation and infrastructure needs, and its economic sustainability—and now the EPA has approved E15 gasoline. In Oklahoma, this means that more and more retail gas stations no longer have the ability to sell 100 percent gasoline (clear gasoline), which many Oklahomans prefer. In response, Sen. Inhofe introduced legislation that would allow states like Oklahoma to opt out of these mandates so that consumers will have a choice at the pump whether to buy clear gasoline or ethanol. [Link](#)

Introduced the Fueling America Act of 2009 (S. 1350): Senator Inhofe, along with Senator Mark Pryor (D-Ark) introduced this bill to increase the production of natural gas and propane vehicles, and develop the necessary infrastructure to maintain them. This bill would do much to incentivize the production of Oklahoma and the nation's vast natural gas reserves, creating thousands of jobs across the state and country. [Link](#)

Small System Safe Drinking Water Act of 2010 (S. 3038): This bill assists water systems in Oklahoma and across the country in complying with Federal drinking water standards, and requires the Environmental Protection Agency to utilize all its resources provided by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments. The bill would



Gene Whatley, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association, testifies before the EPW committee

ensure that small towns across the country have safe, affordable drinking water and that the laws are fair to small and rural communities. [Link](#)

Water Infrastructure Financing Act (S. 1005): Along with Sens. Cardin and Boxer, Sen. Inhofe introduced this bill which makes important reforms and increases investment in the Clean Water State Revolving fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; it also expands eligibility for funding projects including stormwater management, and reuse and recycling projects. [Link](#)

The NEPA Certainty Act (S. 3230): This bill ensures that federal agencies implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) won't engage, or be forced to engage, in costly determinations about global warming impacts of individual projects, such as highways and clean energy power plants. [Link](#)

Spotlight on Oklahoma: Bringing the Concerns of Oklahomans to Washington

Sen. Inhofe puts Oklahomans and their concerns first in Washington. As Ranking Member of the EPW Committee, he has invited several Oklahoma officials to testify in committee hearings.

Economic Development in Oklahoma: On May 21, 2009, Sen. Inhofe welcomed LeVern Phillips to the EPW Committee. As president of the Woodward Industrial Foundation in Oklahoma, Mr. Phillips testified about the importance of the Economic Development Administration funding to the construction of public infrastructure on the Woodward Community Campus in Oklahoma: "Without the EDA's help, the Woodward Community Campus and the creation of good, new jobs simply wouldn't happen." [Link](#)



Senator Inhofe speaks with LaVern Phillips, President of the Woodward Industrial Foundation in Oklahoma

Rural Transportation Investment: On March 18, 2010, Sen. Inhofe welcomed Oklahoma State Senator Bryce Marlatt (R-Woodward) before the EPW Committee to discuss Oklahoma's transportation needs. In particular, Marlatt explained the work that has been done to upgrade Oklahoma Highway 270, saying, "We have made great strides in investing in transportation infrastructure reversing the tide of declining funding for Oklahoma's roads and bridges" and that "any legislation that Congress considers must accommodate the need for added capacity on our nation's highways and bridges, much like Highway 270." [Link](#)

Water Infrastructure Needs: Sen. Inhofe welcomed Gene Whatley, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association before the EPW Committee on December 8, 2009. In his testimony, Whatley explained some of the problems facing small drinking water systems in Oklahoma and across the country saying, "Systems are having to spend too much time and money trying to comply with unnecessary regulations. As a result, systems don't have

the money to make system improvements to better serve existing customers or expand service to areas where individuals are on unsafe private wells. Water systems spend money on unnecessary testing that they could be using to upgrade their infrastructure to provide more reliable service.” Senator Inhofe continues to address these problems through his support of the Water Infrastructure Financing Act, a bipartisan bill passed out of committee that would reauthorize both the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds to provide assistance to states to meet water challenges. [Link](#)



Senator Inhofe welcomes Oklahoma State Senator Bryce Marlatt
[\(Link to Facebook photos\)](#)



Inhofe Joins Principal Straughn to Skype with Students from Grove Valley Elementary After Straughn's Testimony Before EPW Committee
[\(Link to Facebook photos\)](#)

Environmental Education: On April 27, 2010, Senator Inhofe asked Grove Valley Elementary School Principle, Debbie Straughn, to testify regarding the outdoor classroom created at Deer Creek Elementary, utilizing the Private Partners Program—a program that incentivizes partnerships between private landowners and the federal government to restore habitats. In her testimony Straughn said, “The outdoor classroom provides an ideal structured leaning for the children and promotes ideal wildlife habitat... The outdoor habitat gave children an interactive learning environment.” Following the hearing, Inhofe and Straughn spoke to students about the hearing via computer from Washington. [Link](#)

Praise from Oklahomans:

“Few people understand Oklahoma’s infrastructure needs and the struggles of local communities to meet federal mandates than Senator Jim Inhofe. His legislation will not only provide needed loans and funding for communities across Oklahoma to meet critical water needs, but is only one more part of the Senator’s continuing work to address our state’s critical infrastructure.” - Duane Smith, Executive Director of Oklahoma Water Resources Board [Link](#)

“I am pleased that the US Senate today passed a long-term extension of the Federal Highway Program which is of critical importance to Oklahoma...I want to thank Senator Inhofe in particular for his tremendous leadership in getting this extension passed. There is never any question that Oklahoma transportation needs are always a top priority for him.” Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation, Gary Ridley, thanked Inhofe for his leadership in the Senate to get an extension passed (2/19/2010) [Link](#)
Press Release – February 24, 2010

Keep Up To Date with Senator Inhofe's Work on the EPW Committee www.epw.senate.gov/inhofe

Inhofe Recognized for Having "Two Websites that are Among the Best on Capitol Hill"

Senator Inhofe believes social media provides the opportunity to reach directly out to Oklahoma constituents and the American people and let them know about his work in Washington. Whether it's Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, a weekly newsletter or his EPW Committee press blog, Senator believes social media is providing the public direct access to Washington. Now more than ever, the American public has the opportunity to stay informed and engaged with the elected officials. Senator Inhofe is pleased to continue to be recognized as an online leader.

The nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) recognized Senator Inhofe in the 111th Congress for having two of the best websites in Congress. CMF analyzed all 620 congressional websites. According to CMF, only six members received awards for both their personal office and committee websites. [Link](#)

"Senator Inhofe's websites shows that he understands how to meet the needs of his constituents online," said Bell. "The Congressional Management Foundation congratulates Senator Inhofe for having two websites that are among the best on Capitol Hill."



More Praise for Inhofe Press Office Online Outreach:

"You no longer have to turn to C-SPAN to get to know your legislature, now you can get to know many of them on YouTube. In fact Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe stars in one of the most watched videos on the YouTube Senate Hub. He recently posted a video from Cuba during his visit to Guantanamo Bay. It may be surprising to know that Senator Inhofe has two website channels, one of which was recognized in 2007 for being one of the best on Capitol Hill. Now like many politicians he's turning to YouTube and other networking sites to reach the public. Inhofe is on Facebook, has his own YouTube channel, produces podcasts, writes a blog, and has recently joined Twitter. In this day in age Inhofe says the internet is the best way to reach constituents. He says it enables him to bypass the mainstream media and allow for more participation in the legislative process. In fact, the senator is so web savvy, when we contacted his office to learn more on his attempts to use this new medium, he appropriately posted his response in a video on YouTube." [Link](#)

"Listen up, James Inhofe, because this might be the only compliment Grist ever pays you: You've got a decent website," writes the liberal online publication Grist today. "Despite your wacked-out view that climate change is a "hoax" and your opposition to a climate bill, inhofe.senate.gov does a fair job of making your climate and energy positions clear and accessible to the Oklahomans who voted to send you to Washington. In fact, your website is more transparent than the sites of many senators who completely disagree with your views on global warming, including Democratic leaders Harry Reid (Nev.) and Richard Durbin (Ill.), along with two of the most influential senators when it comes to environmental policymaking-Barbara Boxer (Calif.) and Jeff Bingaman (N.M.)." [Link](#)