

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD – SENATOR INHOFE**  
**EPW MARK UP – JANUARY 20, 2016**

I'm pleased to begin this new session of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress with a business meeting reporting a number of pieces of legislation for the Senate's consideration from the Environment and Public Works Committee.

Today's agenda includes S. 659, the Sportsmens Act to complement the bill the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported late last year. This bill includes a number of provisions eliminating unnecessary regulation, supporting recreational sport shooting, and encouraging conservation work.

Today's agenda also includes some reauthorizations and changes to important water quality and environmental programs across the nation. One is S. 1024, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2015. A lack of coordination has existed among programs supporting restoration of the Great Lakes. That is why in 2004, a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force was created to help address this issue. In 2010, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was launched to further enhance interagency coordination. I appreciate the leadership and oversight Senator Mark Kirk has provided to coordinate federal resources for Great Lakes restoration. The substitute amendment today builds on Senator Kirk's work from last session, and I am pleased to support this initiative and continue to work with him. Further, S. 1674, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act continues Senator Gillibrand's work reauthorizing grant programs to support conservation and management plans for the Long Island Sound. These funds implement strategies and work to increase education most importantly ensure water quality in the Long Island Sound. The Committee will consider S. 1724, the

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which authorizes funding for the Tahoe Basin for important wildfire prevention, invasive species management, storm water protection, trout recovery, and overall management.

The committee will consider S. 2143, to provide permanent authority for the operations of the Starr-Camargo Bridge near Rio Grande City, Texas. Texas has some privately owned and operated bridges at the border, dating back over a hundred years. These bridges received congressional authorization. This bill extends the authorization of one of these bridges so that it can continue operations and so that the operating company can rely on long-term authorization to seek loans and other financing mechanisms for improvement. Finally, the Committee will consider 32 resolutions submitted for our consideration from the General Services Administration for cost reductions, lease term changes, and modernization for federal facilities administered by the GSA.

I look forward to reporting these pieces of legislation for full Senate consideration.