

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
Washington DC, 20510

Senator Inhofe,

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for your thirteen years of service to the great state of Oklahoma and its citizens at the national level. I would also like to congratulate your recent leadership and sponsorship of The Religious Freedom Act (SB 178) and The Child Medication Act (SB 891). These are important causes to Oklahomans and you are leading the way; because of your representation, the voice Oklahoma is being heard and our place at the table of democracy is being sustained.

It is because I want the voice of Oklahoma to continue to be heard that I am sending you this letter. Senator Inhofe, global warming and environmental sustainability are among the most pressing and critical issues of our time. As the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, myself, the citizens of Oklahoma, the citizens of this great country, and most importantly the future citizens of our state and country, are relying on you to take the lead in this area. Our window of opportunity is closing fast and we owe it to our children and grandchildren to be good stewards of the environment and to leave them a world worth living in. We cannot do this unless we act and for those of us that are in leadership, the responsibility is even greater.

As a fellow Christian, I would like to call your own denomination's stance on this issue to attention. Following the 127th general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in December of 2006, the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy issued a report available on their website stating that, "...carbon neutrality is a basic step toward reversing the scale of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. Without significant changes in public policy and corporate behavior to complement actions of personal discipleship, massive and irreversible climate changes will only accelerate over the next century." This is consistent not only with the consensus of the scientific community but also with a Christian ethic of stewardship and sustainability. I implore you to consider this affirmation as you act on behalf of the state of Oklahoma and its citizens.

As responsible citizens and leaders, we have a moral responsibility to affirm life and liberty. Unless we reduce our exploitation of the earth and its resources, this will not be ensured for future generations. I am calling on you, Senator Inhofe to support, sponsor, and author legislation that supports and prioritizes this affirmation. As our leader it is your responsibility to do so; you are our voice, you are our hope. Please, let that voice be heard, channel it and protect it. We are putting our trust in you.

Again, thank you for all that you do. I am confident that you will make this issue a priority as you seek to make the world a better place in the political arena; you will remain in my prayers. I appreciate your service and I only ask that you remember the common good for *all* in your decision-making. I am sure that you will.

Respectfully,

J. Blake Huggins