



INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

*The Power of Knowledge and Leadership*

International Economic Development Council  
734 15th Street NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 223-7800  
Fax: (202) 223-4745  
Website: [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org)

## *Media Release*

**For Immediate Release: April 23, 2013**

**Contact: Erin Way at (202) 942-9474**

### **Senator James Inhofe Awarded International Economic Development Council's 2013 Congressional Leadership Award**

**WASHINGTON, DC (April 23, 2013)** - The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) presented Senator James Inhofe with its 2013 Congressional Leadership Award, on Monday, April 15, at the Westin Alexandria Hotel, during its Federal Economic Development Forum.

As an elected official for over 45 years, United States Senator James Inhofe has been vital to Oklahoma's economic prosperity by supporting military installations, transportation infrastructure, and energy and environmental policy. As mayor of Tulsa, member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, United States Congressman, and now as Oklahoma's ranking U.S. Senator, Senator Inhofe has worked tirelessly for his constituents, both on the local and national scale.

As a former member of the United States Army and as a member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, Senator Inhofe recognizes the importance of the military as an economic engine. He was the primary force behind the successful relocation of Oklahoma's largest single site employer, Tinker Air Force Base. By obtaining a vacant General Motors plant and recreating it as the Tinker Aerospace Complex, officials were able to construct a facility that attracts international aerospace companies and employs 27,000 Air Force and civilian employees.

In addition to his focus on the economic importance of the military, Senator Inhofe is a champion of improving transportation infrastructure. Knowing that waterways and roads are important to a successful economy, he led a bipartisan effort to extend the Federal Highway Program in 2010. This effort was integral to the continuation of federal road construction and prevented the loss of thousands of jobs. Senator Inhofe also led the charge to improve the safety and efficiency of Oklahoma interstates and bridges.

Senator Inhofe is also the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee. While in his role with EPW, Senator Inhofe introduced the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2009. This Act ensured that economically distressed areas continued to receive support through grants, allowing them to achieve long-term growth without reliance on government assistance.

Senator James Inhofe has worked tirelessly to create new jobs in his home state of Oklahoma and across the country for more than four decades. He has created new economic opportunities and improved existing institutions. From encouraging local and national infrastructure development to repurposing underutilized facilities for the armed forces, Senator Inhofe has had a tremendous impact on economic development. The International Economic Development Council is honored to bestow upon United States Senator James Inhofe the 2013 Congressional Leadership in Economic Development Award.

**About IEDC:**

The [International Economic Development Council](#) is the premier independent non-profit, non-partisan membership and research organization devoted exclusively to the field of economic development. IEDC assists economic development professionals in creating high-quality jobs, developing vibrant communities and improving the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,100 members, IEDC represents the largest network of economic development professionals in the world. IEDC provides a diverse range of services including conferences, certification, professional development, publications, research, advisory services, and public policy tracking. Visit [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org) to learn more.

###