

## SENATOR CHOSEN AS NEW ENERGY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

From Senate Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Senator Larry Dickerson has been chosen to serve as the 1997 chairman of the Energy Council.



Sen. Larry Dickerson

"This is a tremendous honor, and a wonderful opportunity to bring national attention to some of the issues that are so important to our state," said Dickerson, D-Poteau.

The Energy Council is an organization of state legislators from ten energy producing states and the Province of Alberta. Together they produce more than eighty percent of the oil and gas in the U.S. and Canada.

Senator Dickerson explained that the Energy Council's primary purpose is to participate in the formation of national energy policy, as well as assisting member states and the province in developing energy and environmental policies.

"I think it's important for all of us to remember that the energy industry is still a vi-

tal part of Oklahoma's economy. In 1995, the total economic impact of the oil and gas industry in our state alone was about \$4.09 billion," noted Dickerson.

However Senator Dickerson said he was concerned that instead of finding greater incentives to increase domestic energy production, the U.S. has become far too willing to rely more heavily on imported oil.

"We must not allow our country's economy and our national security to be held hostage by events in the middle-east. But without a more aggressive energy policy to protect and stimulate our domestic production, we're leaving ourselves wide-open to that possibility," said Senator Dickerson.

"But there's still a great deal we can do to prevent that from happening. For example this last session, we passed Senate Bill 911, which gave tax relief to marginal wells. We also need to do more to continue to stimulate coal production in Oklahoma, another important component of our energy industry," said Dickerson.

Dickerson, who has served in Oklahoma's Senate since 1986, won the unanimous support of his fellow legislators at the Council's 1996 annual meeting in Tulsa. "Senator Dickerson knows energy and its importance to producing states like those in the Council. Oklahoma was one of the founding members of the Council over 20 years ago and Larry Dickerson carries on a proud tradition of Council leadership from his state," said Louisiana Senator Chris Ullo, the outgoing Chairman.

A long-time member of the Council's Executive Committee, Senator Dickerson chairs the Oklahoma Senate's Appropriation Subcommittee on General Government and Transportation. He also sits on a number of other committees, including the Energy, Environmental Resources and Regulatory Affairs Committee.

*"Liberty is to faction what air is to fire, an ailment without which it instantly expires. But it could not be less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction, than it would be to wish annihilation of air, which is essential to animal life, because it imparts to fire its destructive agency."*

James Madison  
'The Federalist'  
Nov. 22, 1787

## INNOVATION WORKSHOP TO HELP OKLAHOMA ENTREPRENEURS

From Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The National Innovation Workshop "Making Invention Pay" will be held next Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18 and 19, 1996 at the Hilton Inn Northwest, 2945 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City.

Coordinated by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, this workshop is a cooperative effort of federal and regional programs to provide practical guidance and information to innovative businesses, entrepreneurs and inventors.

Kathy Bowles, Program Planner for the Commerce Department, said the generally perceived need to improve America's industrial competitiveness has resulted in increased interest in contributions to technology and business of independent inventors and innovators. "The fact is, without significant support, chances are slim that an individual inventor will move an idea from the workshop to fruition. Through a wide range of individual workshops, 'Making Invention Pay' will help entrepreneurs bring their ideas to the marketplace," explained Bowles.

The workshop features lectures and panel discussions on the invention and innovation process including such topics as "Protecting your Idea," "Commercializing Your Invention," "Licensing" and "Starting a New Business." Featured presenters include economic development author and speaker G. Douglas Fox, computer entrepreneur Rick Martin and entertainer Gene McFall presenting "The Witty World of Will Rogers." Resources on technical and business data, and federal, state and local programs that provide assistance for inventors will be available.

One assistance program to be highlighted is the Energy-Related Inventions Program (ERIP), a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. ERIP was established in 1974 to nourish the technological creativity that small businesses and independent inventors might bring to bear on the country's energy problems. Since 1975, the ERIP staff has assisted more than 600 inventors. An ERIP assistance package can take many forms, ranging from an evaluation to a full-scale package including grants which currently average about \$80,000.

For more information regarding the National Innovation Workshop, please call Kathy Bowles, Oklahoma Department of Commerce at 1-800-879-6552 or (405) 841-5267.

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"I wrote that to ridicule the sexism of men like Jim Inhofe — men who treat women like objects, men who do not believe in equal pay for equal work and men just like Jim Inhofe who would make criminals of women for wanting the right to control their own bodies."

Boren described the book to which Inhofe's commercial referred, *When In Doubt, Mumble*, as a work of satire designed to make people "laugh, think and take action."

"It's been through 11 printings," Boren added. "If I'd known Jim Inhofe was going to bring it up during the campaign I would have had some more printed."

Without being specific, Boren, who vowed he would win the race, said, "Polls all over Oklahoma and the country now show this race to be a dead heat and I haven't even begun my television and radio ads."

Asked by *Capitol Network News* whether the forthcoming ads would be satirical or straightforward in nature, Boren said, "They will be issue oriented. I want to deal with issues, not with irrelevancies."