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Boozman Bulletin: A Voice for Arkansas

Providing a voice for Arkansans in the process of creating policies on issues important to them is a big part of my commitment as a representative of our state. I'm a firm believer that solutions should come from the people who understand the problem the best.

Fresh off the [Seed to Sawmill Tour](#) in Arkansas, I brought lessons learned from the Arkansas forestry industry to Washington as my colleagues and I who serve on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, [advanced the Resilient Federal Forests Act to reform forest management practices](#). This legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Fourth District Congressman Bruce Westerman. My colleagues and I amended the bill. The amended version continues to contain key portions authored by Congressman Westerman.

Since hunger is another issue facing our state, I worked with Arkansas hunger relief agencies to learn how summer meal services can be improved for students and incorporated their suggestions into the [Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act](#), legislation to make federal child nutrition programs more efficient and flexible to reach children in need during the summer months when school meals are not available.

After listening to a Riceland Foods representative testify before the Senate Ag Committee last year about the challenges facing agriculture producers to export their goods to Cuba, I [introduced legislation to lift the ban on private banks and companies from offering credit for agriculture exports to Cuba](#) and help level the playing field for Arkansas farmers and exporters.

In a meeting with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under Secretary for Health, I learned of initiatives helping to improve the care our veterans receive at the Little Rock Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS). That's why I pressed the chairman of the Senate VA Committee to hold a hearing about VA's *Diffusion of Excellence* program and how an innovative program in Arkansas is being rolled out in VA facilities across the country. Arkansan Dr. Kimberly Garner, a geriatrician who leads clinical demonstration projects and educational development at the Little Rock VA Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center, [shared her innovative work with my colleagues and I during a VA hearing earlier this month](#).

I'm blessed to have the opportunity to highlight the great work Arkansans are doing to make our communities, state and country better. I'm proud to be able to incorporate the ideas I hear from people around the state into policies that improve the lives of Arkansans and all Americans.

Quick Takes:

- **Protecting National Security:** National security is the main concern that I hear about from Arkansans. The anxiety and unease created by this administration's failed foreign policy weighs heavy on the American people. We must change course on many of the president's approaches to foreign affairs, including our posture toward Iran and radical terrorist groups like ISIS. The administration's [terrible Iran deal is flushing the regime with cash and allowing Tehran to continue its nuclear activities](#) while rebuilding its arsenal and belligerently bullying the U.S. and our allies, which is a serious threat. I [talked about Iran's provocation aimed at our country and the threat North Korea and ISIS pose on the Senate floor last week](#). Just as concerning is that as these events unfold, Senate Democrats [continue to block vital funding for our troops and our country's security](#) from moving forward.
- **Protecting the Second Amendment:** I recently [pressed the Obama administration to rescind the July 22, 2016 guidance under the International Trade in Arms Regulations \(ITAR\)](#) that changes the longstanding definition of "manufacturing" to now include numerous common gunsmithing practices, requiring many gunsmiths to register and obtain an export license for a fee of \$2,250 even if they do not export. I believe this is an attack not only on our Second Amendment rights, but on American business and innovation.
- **Obamacare Fails to Contain Costs:** Since being fully implemented in 2014, Obamacare continues over-promising and under-delivering. It's not affordable, nor is it fixing the problems within the healthcare industry. Further evidence of this trend includes announcements from many health insurers that they will significantly [draw back or pull out completely from offering coverage in the various state exchanges created under the law](#). Market-based reforms will improve our healthcare and help contain costs, not Obamacare.
- **Improving Waterway Infrastructure:** Arkansas is blessed with more than 1,000 miles of navigable waterways that contribute to more than \$1 trillion worth of goods that move through our nation's ports each year. [I was proud to support the Senate-passed Water Resources Development Act \(WRDA\) of 2016](#). This is an important bill that strengthens our waterways, ensures we have safe, reliable sources of drinking water and addresses agriculture water supply. I'm pleased that this bipartisan bill includes provisions I introduced that will provide Arkansans clean and safe water and improve our ability to move goods to market, creating economic opportunities and jobs for the hardworking people of Arkansas.
- **Increasing Participation in Voluntary Farm Conservation Programs:** During my [annual August Agriculture Tour](#) I heard from many Arkansas agriculture producers about the red tape that prevents them from participating in voluntary farm conservation programs. That's why I teamed up with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) to introduce the [Improving Access to Farm Conservation Act](#) that would remove burdensome requirements and regulations that keep families from participating in the

program.

- **Fighting for Small Businesses:** Last week [I accepted the 'Guardian of Small Business' award](#) from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business association. This award recognizes members of Congress who support NFIB's key issues as identified by small business owners. I appreciate this recognition and will continue to be an advocate for policies that support small business and help the backbone of our economy grow.
- **Defending Seniors:** I [helped introduce the *Improving Transparency and Accuracy in Medicare Part D Drug Spending Act*](#) to protect Medicare Part D beneficiaries and community pharmacists. This bill would help community pharmacists provide Part D recipients with the affordable, reliable services they rely on.
- **Let Me Help You:** I'm proud of what my staff and I have accomplished to resolve [issues involving the federal government on behalf of hardworking Arkansas families](#) including problems with Social Security, Medicare paperwork glitches, passport troubles, tax matters or veterans issues. Let us help you. Come and visit with my staff at mobile offices they're hosting next Thursday and Friday in [Hampton and Batesville](#).
- **Connect on Social Media:** Stay up to date with what I'm doing for Arkansans via social media. You can find me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



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