



# John Boozman

United States Senator  
for Arkansas

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## Boozman Bulletin - April 5, 2012

Congress is in recess which gives me an opportunity to spend more time in Arkansas. We have spent the past week traveling across the state meeting with community and business leaders listening to the challenges they are facing in this economic climate. The price of gas dominated the conversation in nearly all of our meetings.

The price of a gallon of regular gas increased more than 20 cents in the past month according to AAA and that is impacting family and community budgets. Arkansans are demanding action from Washington. They are frustrated by the higher costs every time they fill up their car. They are tired of seeing more and more of their disposable income being eaten up at the pump. We can start providing them relief by increasing production here at home.

Our country needs to adopt an energy policy that reduces our dependence on Middle Eastern oil by [using our natural resources](#) in an environmentally sound way. [Constructing the Keystone XL pipeline](#) is a perfect example of how we can utilize U.S. manpower and get more oil from our number one trading partner, our North American friends in Canada, which in turn, will decrease our reliance on hostile regimes for our energy needs. This was the number one issue I heard from Arkansans during our last [tele-town hall](#). I used some of the information I heard on this forum as well as stories Arkansans shared on my [Facebook](#) page in a [speech on the Senate floor](#).

Washington can and must do more to help counter the rising price of gasoline. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to promote an energy policy that leads to real relief at the pump.

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### Quick Takes:

**Healthcare Law Anniversary:** We recently marked the second anniversary of President Obama's cornerstone healthcare proposal becoming law by [answering questions from Arkansans](#) we received via [social media](#). It's clear this flawed law left us with [fewer jobs, more](#)

[debt and lower quality of care](#). Then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said during the debate “we have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it.” [This is what we’ve learned](#). We need an approach to reform healthcare that lets patients make their own health decisions. [Community Health Centers](#) are part of that solution as is real reform, based on free-market principles, which will drive down costs and increase coverage. We must improve our healthcare system and increase access for all Americans without adding trillions to our already staggering amount of debt.

**Putting Americans Back to Work:** I recently received the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s [Spirit of Enterprise Award](#) for supporting pro-job and pro-growth policies. Job creation is priority #1 and we must work to create an environment that encourages business growth and hiring. One of the ways that we are going to grow our economy and create jobs is by exporting more American goods. That’s why I cosponsored [The Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act of 2012](#). This legislation is a [bipartisan bicameral effort to increase trade to Africa](#) by requiring better coordination amongst U.S. government agencies and departments responsible for trade.

**Honoring the Service and Sacrifice of SSG Jerry Reed II:** Thank you for the service and sacrifice of Army SSG Jerry Reed II of Russellville who died while heroically serving our country in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I honored SSG Reed in [this floor speech](#).

**Second Amendment:** I am proud to support legislation that would guarantee the [rights of gun owners to carry concealed weapons across state lines](#) in accordance with the laws of individual states. I have long supported this idea and introduced similar legislation as a member of the House of Representatives.

**Honoring the U.S. Marshals Service:** The President recently signed legislation into law to mint a coin [commemorating the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Marshals Service](#). A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the coin will be used by the U.S. Marshals Service National Museum in Fort Smith for the preservation, maintenance, and display of artifacts and documents of the Marshal Service.

**Media Round-Up:** Tuesday morning we started the day at KTHV. You can [watch our interview here](#). If you missed my latest interviews with [KASU in Jonesboro](#) or [KBJT-KQEW in Fordyce](#), you can check them out in their entirety by following these links.

