

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES M. INHOFE, U.S. SENATOR FROM
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Senator Inhofe. Today, the Committee on Environment and Public Works will highlight the findings of the committee's ongoing investigation into the issue of eco-terrorism. The Patriot Act defines terrorism as ``the unlawful use of force and violence against people or property to intimidate or coerce Government or civilian population in furtherance of a political or social objective.''

The Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security agree that eco-terrorism is a severe problem, naming the serious domestic terrorist threat in the United States today as the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) which, by all accounts, is a converging movement with similar ideologies in common personnel.

ELF and ALF are terrorists by definition, using intimidation, threats, acts of violence, and property destruction to force their opinions of proper environmental and animal rights policy upon society. ELF and ALF resort to arson, sabotage, and harassment in hopes of using fear to attain their goals of hampering development and free commerce. In fact, ELF and ALF are responsible for estimating conservatively, over \$110 million in damages and 1,100 acts of terrorism in the last decade. ELF and ALF's weapon of choice is arson, placing instructions on how to effectively set fire to animal abusers on their Web site, which is chart **No. 1**, Arson-Around with Auntie ALF. This is a book on how to make incendiary devices and firebombs.

[The referenced document follows on page 124.]

Today, we will hear from Federal law enforcement agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, who will discuss the problem of ELF and ALF and law enforcement's reaction to their dangerous and destructive tactics. It is these tactics, particularly the widespread use of arson, which makes ELF and ALF the **No. 1** domestic terror concern over the likes of white supremacists, militias, and anti-abortion groups.