

Dear Member of the Media;

I would like to set the record straight regarding talking points put out by my political opponents last year and repeated in a recent AP article issued on February 13. The AFL-CIO talking points issued during the October 2011 picketing of the Department of Labor are false. I have not “likened state workers to ‘feral hogs’”.

As Commissioner of Labor I have referenced bureaucratic chiefs, bureaucrats in general, and the entrenched special interests as being similar to feral hogs that I have observed on my own land in eastern Oklahoma. Feral hogs do not like it when their food supply is messed with, similarly, bureaucracy and bureaucratic chiefs resist consolidation and market based reforms.

What my political opponents will not tell you is that I have been consistent in my remarks complimenting my hard working colleagues at the Department of Labor. Today, 85 public servants accomplish more tasks with greater productivity than 115 accomplished a decade ago. My complimentary words have been expressed in dozens of speeches made statewide as well a video posting on the Department of Labor web.

Those who oppose my reform agenda have engaged in tactics to place me in a defensive position in the hopes that I will surrender my campaign promise to the citizens of Oklahoma to battle for reform. Specifically, I believe the State of Oklahoma should stop being the bagman for the union bosses. Politics does not belong in the paychecks of public employees. I will continue to debate and advocate the merits of important issues that are in the publics’ best interest.

Sincerely,

Make Costello