September 18, 2013

For more information, contact:
Becky Robinson, 405-882-1204

Statement from Becky Robinson, chair of the Oklahoma Injury Benefit Coalition, on the legal challenge to SB1062 – workers' compensation reforms

"While we are disappointed, we are not surprised that the same interests that opposed this legislation are making one last attempt to preserve a broken system that benefits themselves at the expense of our state.

"Although they claim to advocate against this change on behalf of employees or employers, their real motives lay in maintaining the financial benefit they receive from the adversarial system they have built.

"Last week the non-partisan National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) announced that the passage of SB1062 will reduce Oklahoma's workers' compensation costs by 14.6 percent. The NCCI's announcement validates the legislature's efforts to replace the state's archaic system and move Oklahoma forward. The 2012 Oregon Workers' Compensation Premium Rate Ranking Summary showed that Oklahoma had the sixth highest workers' compensation premiums in the country.

"SB1062 offers strong protections for workers, reduces lawsuits, and provides choices for employers. Not only do these reforms include significant safeguards for workers, they will also boost job creation and economic development for the state.

"By passing SB1062, the legislature made a clear statement that the old system should be replaced and we will continue to fight to ensure that it is. We are confident the reforms will be preserved."

###

www.okibc.org

Becky Robinson is chair of the Oklahoma Injury Benefit Coalition, an organization that includes Oklahoma employers united by their commitment to reforming the state's workers' compensation system.