


Conservatives (and not just of the Tea Party variety) Call for Defense Cuts

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This week, Americans for Tax Reform released a [letter](#), signed by a strong coalition of conservative leaders, asking Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Speaker Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) to reject, "the notion that spending cuts can be avoided in certain parts of the federal budget."

From the letter:

Proponents of a larger Department of Defense budget have argued that security outlays should be weighed against mandatory spending levels, suggesting that explosive entitlement growth serves as an appropriate metric for defense spending. This not only ignores the unsustainable nature of entitlement spending but also the reality of defense spending, which has increased by 86 percent since 1998.

[snip]

And yet, defense spending continues to enjoy protected status. The Pentagon is slated to spend \$6.5 trillion over the next ten years – equal to the current projected deficit spending in the same time period. Ignoring the burden military spending places on the taxpayers promotes the same reckless spending ethos that led to failed "stimulus" policies, government bailouts and a prolonged economic recession.

[snip]

True fiscal stewards cannot eschew real spending reform by protecting pet projects in the federal budget. Any such Department of Defense favoritism would signal that the new Congress is not serious about fiscal responsibility and not ready to lead.

This is a serious statement from the likes of Grover Norquist, Brent Bozell, Richard Viguerie, and others.

The full list of names is after the jump...

Al Regnery, The American Spectator
 Bill Pascoe, Citizens for the Republic
 Bob Barr, Liberty Guard
 Brian Burch, CatholicVote.org
 Chip Faulkner, Citizens for Limited Taxation
 Christopher Preble, Cato Institute
 Chuck Muth, Citizen Outreach
 David A. Keene, American Conservative Union
 Duane Parde, National Taxpayers Union
 Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform
 Jim Martin, 60 Plus Association
 Joe Seehusen, Liberty Guard
 John Tate, Campaign for Liberty
 Karen Kerrigan, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
 L. Brent Bozell, Media Research Center
 Lewis K. Uhler, National Tax Limitation Committee
 Lisa Miller, Tea Party WDC
 Matt Kibbe, Freedomworks
 Mattie Corrao, Center for Fiscal Accountability
 Richard Viguerie, ConservativeHQ.com
 Rick Watson, Florida Center-Right Coalition
 Seton Motley, Less Government
 Susan Carleson, American Civil Rights Union
 Tim Phillips, Americans for Prosperity
 Tom Giovanetti, Institute for Policy Innovation
 Tom Schatz, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
 William Greene, RightMarch.com

 [Security Matters](#), [Defense Spending](#) (all tags)

Full discussion: <http://www.nukesofhazardblog.com/story/2010/12/3/17825/9687>

The views expressed on the blog are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Arms Control & Non-Proliferation.

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