

TRANSCRIPT: Scott Cooper: Tea Party perspective on dangerous defense cuts

Event: Providing for the Common Defense: The First Duty of the 'Super Committee'

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FRANK GAFFNEY:

He currently serves as the membership coordinator for the Virginia Tea Party Patriot Federation. But also as a state coordinator in the Virginia for the Tea Party Patriots Program as well as the Coalition of Tea Party organizations nationwide. He's a man who takes this business very seriously. And I think it's important that we close the program with your thoughts. Scott, welcome. [APPLAUSE]

SCOTT COOPER:

I just want to say thank you to Frank for inviting me here. It's a real honor to be amongst so many distinguished individuals. You know, I was thinking a little bit about the Tea Party Movement and maybe many of you don't know what's going on within the movement. So I kind of want to end with an encouraging note. I know we have a clear and present danger with this issue. But first of all, I want to say I am a membership coordinator for the Tea Party Federation of Virginia and I'm a state coordinator for Tea Party Patriots. But one thing that is unique about us and you need to know is we're bottoms up. We're not top down. So I'm here as an individual. But what I want to say to encourage you is that we are engaged—while you may not hear about us, we're engaged at the local level, fighting to win local elections. And we want to build a base of individuals, citizen legislators, who are going to come to Washington in the future and lend support to those that are understaffed and undermanned here on Capitol Hill now. So Congressman Franks said a few minutes ago or at the beginning, he talked about cycles. He talked about the Carter administration. And he talked about the Clinton administration. Well, I think we're going to have a cycle where we turn back and we make our common defense a priority. So for the common defense. Tea Party is three fold. Colin talked a lot about financial. But we're for constitutionally limited government. Then we're for financial/fiscal responsibility. And then we're for free markets. And when you think about for the common defense, that is the primary issue that is laid out in the preamble of the Constitution. And we just celebrated Constitution Day. And I know for a fact that we handed out over a half a million Constitutions to citizens who are getting engaged in the process for the first time. So I believe there's great hope for our future. And if this is being recorded, I would just say go back to your home tonight, go on the website, forthecommondefense, post it on your social media, send it out to your newsletters and encourage your friends to do the same. There's an action link on your website that tells us to do three things. And if we all do these three things, and then encourage our friends to do the same three things, we can get this message out and we can win this fight. One is to write the super committee. The other one is to write our own legislators. And then, two, host a meeting in your home or your hometown. Get your citizens engaged.