

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2014

To the Founders Committee of the RSC:

The Constitution of the United States designates that Congress shall provide for the common defense, that we shall raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy. The second Canon of our RSC founding principles states that the RSC is "dedicated to a strong national defense".

However, under the Obama administration, the world is less safe and sequestration is forcing the United States Military to reduce capabilities, in many cases, to below WWII levels. President Barack Obama has directed over \$1 trillion in cuts to the military since he took office.

Subsequent to the induction of sequestration, the House Republican budgets and RSC budgets have recognized the strain this law has placed on national security. As a result, we have set top line numbers that protect defense from cuts that would jeopardize critical missions, capabilities, and the well-being of soldiers and their families.

As Members of the Republican Study Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, our purpose for writing is to encourage you to uphold the strong national security values and founding principles of the RSC when vetting candidates to serve as Chair of this great conservative Body.

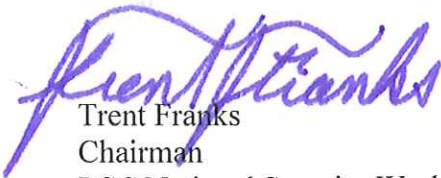
We would respectfully request that any candidate for Chairman of the Republican Study Committee be thoroughly vetted to have demonstrated a clear, principled and unequivocal voting record in support of our National Security. This would not only honor the principles and vision of our founders, it would also ensure continuity of these principles as embodied in the voting records of the past Chairmen.

The safety and security of the American people is the first responsibility of the federal government, and the RSC must always be at the forefront of that noble mission.

While we remain deeply dedicated to reigning in government spending, we believe that decimating the Department of Defense budget not only endangers our national security, but will diminish America's environment of productivity and ultimately exacerbate our long term debt crisis.

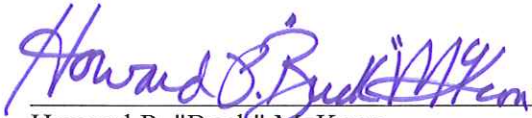
Thank you for your faithful service in support of the Republican Study Committee and the conservative cause.

Most Sincerely,

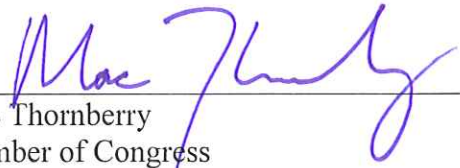

Trent Franks
Chairman
RSC National Security Working Group


Rob Wittman
Chairman
RSC Military Readiness Task Force

cc: Reps. Johnson S, Hensarling, Price, Jordan, Scalise, Ryan, Barton



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

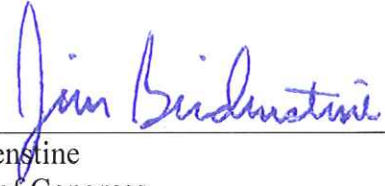


Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

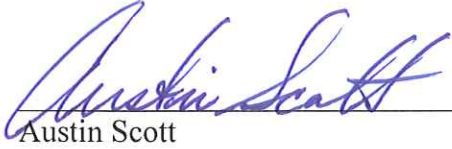


Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

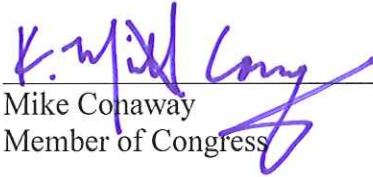
M.C.



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



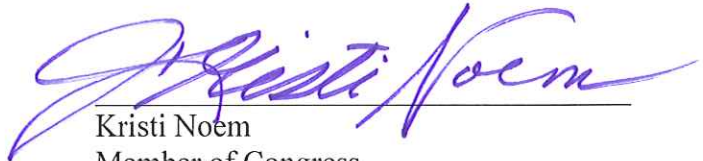
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Mike Conaway
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



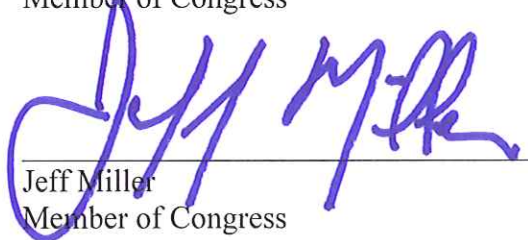
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



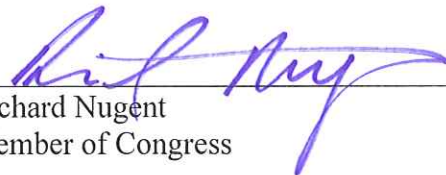
Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Michael Turner
Member of Congress



Richard Nugent
Member of Congress


Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress


Mike Rogers (AL)
Member of Congress


Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress


John Flemming
Member of Congress


Mo Brooks
Member of Congress


Rob Bishop
Member of Congress


John Kline
Member of Congress