



AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

9900 MAIN STREET SUITE 303 · FAIRFAX, VA 22031 · PHONE: 703.383.0880 · FAX: 703.383.5288 · WWW.GETLIBERTY.ORG

January 31, 2013

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee
2407 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young,

On behalf of Americans for Limited Government (ALG), I am writing to ask that you, in the context of the next continuing resolution for the remainder Fiscal Year 2013, immediately suspend all funding for the West Point Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) unless and until its recent report, “Challengers from the Sidelines: Understanding America’s Violent Far-Right,”¹ is disavowed and its author, Dr. Arie Perliger, is fired.

The West Point report makes several dangerously irrational generalizations about the “far-right,” a stunningly one-sided demonization of conservative ideology. Written by Dr. Arie Perliger,² director of terrorism studies at the CTC, the report warns of the rising militancy of so-called “anti-federalists” — or Americans who embrace ideas like “civil activism, individual freedoms and self-government.” These are the fundamental, constitutional ideals upon which our nation was founded. But if you espouse them, per the report, you could be a terrorist.

According to Perliger, these “anti-federalists” are dangerous because they “espouse strong convictions regarding the federal government, believing it to be corrupt and tyrannical, with a natural tendency to intrude on individuals’ civil and constitutional rights.” These, again, are beliefs protected under the First Amendment — the basic right to say and write whatever one’s opinion is against government. That is, the right to dissent.

The views Perliger labels as “anti-federalist” are widely shared by millions of self-described conservative and libertarian Americans. According to national pollster Scott Rasmussen, a full 43 percent of voters consider themselves conservative.³ Should they read into the West Point study that they are now enemies of the state? This is simply inexcusable. Not one more dime of taxpayer money should be wasted on CTC, which is indoctrinating our servicemen and women with brazen propaganda against the American people until this report is denounced and its author terminated from government service.

Sincerely,

William Wilson
President
Americans for Limited Government

¹ <http://www.ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ChallengersFromtheSidelines.pdf>

² <http://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/experts/dr-arie-perliger>

³ <http://www.creators.com/opinion/scott-rasmussen/team-obama-finds-romney-hard-target-to-hit.html>

CC: Ranking Member Rep. Pete Visclosky and the members of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.