



Antony Davies: A letter to Washington ...

By [ANTONY DAVIES, Ph.D.](#)

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Dear Washington,

Three percent – that's all we asked. Just cut three percent. It's like the average family cutting its budget by \$28 a week. It's like losing 14 ounces when you're 30 pounds overweight, or shaving 54 seconds off a half-hour commute.

The "supercommittee" you appointed to handle this task didn't even have to make substantial spending cuts. All it had to do was to slow the rate of spending growth by half. But it couldn't – so now the excuses start.

The committee will claim that cutting \$1.2 trillion from the budget was an impossible task. But those cuts were to be spread out over ten years, which is just \$120 billion per year. Washington, you spend that much every 11 days.

Committee members will blame the other party, yet each year both parties manage to pass a budget that is 6 percent larger than the one before. Can you only achieve bipartisanship when you're voting to increase spending?

Washington, you've heard from some of us recently. We sent you the Tea Partiers and the Occupiers out of a growing sense that something is wrong in our nation's capital. If your spending continues on its current path, your debt is going to reach 120 percent of our economic output in only eight years. That's the level at which the Greeks started rioting, the Italians threw out their Prime Minister, and the European Union started to come apart.

As is happening in Europe, mathematics will eventually do what your spendthrift politicians cannot: It will force you to stop spending, because there will be nothing left to spend.

But runaway spending is only the symptom of your disease: hubris. You think you know even better than we do what's best for us. You believe you can negate the laws of economics with the stroke of a pen. You perceive that your job is to protect the misguided and uninformed public from itself.

To this end, you think it your right and duty to tell us what cars to drive, whether to save or to spend, what jobs we can or cannot perform, what educations we should pursue, whom we can marry, where we should live, and even what toys and foods we should give our children. The rules and regulations you intend to protect us instead smother us. The programs and incentives you intend to nurture us instead make us dependents.

Washington, there is a solution, but you cannot see it because it lies outside your Beltway consensus of committees and task forces and working groups. The answer is in every household from our mountains to our oceans. The answer is in the hearts of the people who knock on the doors of our borders – people you are loathe to admit. It is the spirit of human freedom.

You are old and so you forget, but this is the very same spirit that birthed you. Americans – a risk-taking, freedom-loving, self-starting, independent people – created you. We can figure out how to save our banking system better than you because we understand better than you how to balance profit and risk. We can decide whether to replace our incandescent bulbs with CFLs because we understand better than

you how to balance the cost and environmental impact of CFLs versus incandescents and we know better than you what other options exist.

Turn back to your roots, Washington. Next to nature, the spirit of human freedom is the most powerful force on the planet. Free Americans know what to do. Let us do it. Your founders gave you a Constitution so that you might remember what you are and – more importantly – what you are not. Read it, but remember dear Washington, that document isn't meant to augment your power; it's meant to constrain it. It's a map your founders left to remind you, when times get tough and it seems that there is no hope, what you must stop doing so that Americans can do what they need to do to set our country straight again.

With love and hope for a brighter future,

We, the People

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