

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today issued the following statement after Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the Obama Administration would seek “international permission,” but not Congressional approval, before using military force in Syria:

“Once again, we’re seeing the Obama Administration ignore the Constitution, the War Powers Act, and the role of Congress in determining when this country goes to war. It’s an insult to the American people for the Secretary of Defense to come before a Senate Committee and say that the Administration will seek ‘international permission’ to spend American resources and potentially put American lives on the line in Syria, but won’t consult with Congress.

“There may be a very good case to use military force in Syria, but the President needs to make that case to the American people and to their Representatives in Congress. If the Obama Administration is going to seek permission from the UN, NATO and the Arab League, they better come to Congress and get our permission too.

“The founders were clear not to leave this decision in the hands of one man, and rightfully so.”

Rooney sits on the House Armed Services and Intelligence Committees. He served in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, and taught Constitutional Law at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

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