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Lindholm taking “Bring Our Troops Home” push to D.C.

SUNDANCE – A movement organized by veterans in Western states, intended to press Congress to support President Trump's efforts to bring U.S. troops home from endless wars in the Middle East, has quickly spread across the country, an early leader in the effort said Friday.

Rep. Tyler Lindholm, R-Sundance, majority whip of the Wyoming House of Representatives and a five-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, said his organization -- BringOurTroopsHome.US -- will convene a meeting of like-minded veterans, state legislators, and citizen activists from around the country in Washington, D.C., next week in conjunction with the Veterans Day holiday.

Lindholm is scheduled to meet next Wednesday with Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., in her Capitol Hill office.

Lindholm will also chair a bipartisan panel of state legislators from around the country – including Rep. Andi Clifford, D-Riverton – to discuss a coordinated strategy by lawmakers in multiple states to pursue a 10th Amendment-based check and balance on federal war-making powers.

Lindholm and others will introduce legislation next legislative session to require that their states' National Guard units cannot be deployed to combat operations unless Congress has approved a formal declaration of war.

The event will feature a keynote address at the National Press Club by retired Brig. Gen. Don Bolduc, U.S. Army, a special forces commander who was among the first U.S. troops on the ground

in Afghanistan in 2001 who initially fought the Taliban on horseback, plus panel discussions by other high-ranking military officers and NCOs on the effects of America's now 18-year long war on the military itself and on minority service members and their communities.

Veterans from 24 states and state legislators from seven states are confirmed to attend Lindholm's event, and each will meet with their states' respective Congressional delegations.

"BringOurTroopsHome.US is already spreading around the country at a wildfire's pace," wrote radio talk show host Scott Horton of Austin, Tex., author of the 2017 book, *Fool's Errand: Time to End the War in Afghanistan*. "They have the president's own words to invoke when stating their case that 18 years of this is enough."

Lindholm said, "We have a simple message for Rep. Cheney and the rest of Congress. Support the President's efforts to withdraw American troops from war zones in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and elsewhere, and bring our troops home. Then, before American troops are sent into combat overseas in the future, return to the Constitutional standard of requiring a formal declaration of war by Congress, as stipulated in Article I of the U.S. Constitution."

Lindholm this year has been critical of Cheney's support for expanding American military involvement in the Middle East, including her insistence in June that the U.S. bomb Iran after it downed an unmanned U.S. drone.

"That's insane," Lindholm said in a video reported by Wake Up Wyoming, a Casper radio talk show. "We essentially lost a pickup truck. It's folks like Rep. Liz Cheney who are keeping us at war even though she has never been at war herself."

Lindholm's efforts began last winter when he became aware of BringOurTroopsHome.US, an organization of veterans founded by former Idaho Army National Guard Sgt. Dan McKnight, who served in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2007.

In February, Lindholm launched a Wyoming affiliate of that movement, including its own website –

www.WyBringOurTroopsHome.com – and authored a guest opinion, published in multiple newspapers in the state, in which he urged Cheney to follow U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jim Risch, R-Idaho, in abandoning the Bush-Cheney doctrine of nation-building in the Middle East.

"It's past time that Congress reclaim the war powers wrested from it nearly two decades ago when our current endless wars began," Lindholm wrote. "It's past time Rep. Cheney join Sen. Risch in disavowing a policy that's come at too high a cost in American blood and treasure."

Risch that month had declared the doctrine a failure in comments to the Boise Chamber of Commerce, referring to efforts begun by former President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, Liz Cheney's father, to establish Western-style democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq.

For more information or to sign our petition: www.WyBringOurTroopsHome.com