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In Conjunction With
The Twin-State Valley Media Network

**A Conversation with Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO)
~ Transcript of Podcast ~**

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The following is the transcript of an interview with Congressman Tom Tancredo discussing his passion for the issues in the upcoming election.

Q. Congressman, you've been re-elected four times in the 6th district of Colorado. What do you think are the qualities that have allowed Colorado residents to elect you that way and what message would you like them to give the New Hampshire voters?

A. Passion for issues. The fact that I address them forthrightly. I have never hesitated to tell people exactly how I feel, that I have pursued whatever agenda I have laid out for my constituents and have I have done so with vigor and I think that it's appreciated and you're right, I have been re-elected four times, elected five times and this last time I received more votes than any other person running for Congress in Colorado. As a Republican you have to understand we were not doing all that well, so I believe it's because I have been willing to stand up to my own party and certainly to the president and that people recognize that when I take an oath of office that oath as I always say, is not to the party and it's not to the president. It's to uphold the Constitution

Q. New Hampshire voters have since 1775 shown a rather independent streak, and there seems to be a growing rebellion against this Real ID Act one of the state representatives said that we aren't elected to help the federal government create a national ID. What would you tell these people?

A. I would say that they have every right, if they choose, to not

participate. It was written so that a state could opt out. Of course they risk, you know ... it's the ultimate threat the federal government holds over every state - that is risk (of losing) federal funding, in this case for highways. It depends upon how strongly, I think, you folks feel about it. If they really do, that's one way of dealing with it. I think that when you recognize that perhaps all we have in this whole nation as a method of identification, that it's sort of the keys to the kingdom, if you will, then you have to understand that it's important for that to at least be valid, and somewhat reliable, in terms of who is carrying it, when there are so many things at risk, when risks are as great as they are, I should say, for people to do very nasty things by using fake identity you could choose, I suppose, not to obtain one, not to drive, if you think that is an invasion of your privacy. But why would it be an invasion of your privacy today after the Real ID Act - all the Real ID Act says is that identification has to be valid and so what's the difference between that and getting a driver's license today? Are people saying "well I have given false information to get my driver's license and I want to protect that anonymity." I mean if that's really it I must admit to you that I don't feel any sympathy for them.

Q. The other point that I wanted to raise with you, and most of these debates seem to be drawing, congressman, people who are over 55. There's a very small percentage of young people coming through in the debates. Do you think this is because it's too early, they haven't registered or because these debates are passé and younger people are looking at other mediums. Do you have any thoughts on that?

A. I think that latter is really true. I think most of the younger generation is looking at getting their information from places other than the national television, the national media. They're looking at alternative sources. We work very, very hard to have the best blog of any of the people

running, and I think we do and people should go to it. I think that they'll agree that it is the best and the reason we work very hard at that is for just what we're saying here, that most people we're trying to entice into this thing called being a good citizen, this is the way to communicate with a lot of them - and to tell you the truth, if I wasn't participating I don't know that I would be watching - we are not all that illuminating when you can speak for ... In the first debate, which was in the Reagan library and was an hour and a half, 90 minutes, I had four questions, I think, and the first one was 45 minutes into the debate when I was asked what I thought would increase the number of organ donors. Yeah, so, believe me from my point of view, they're not all that fascinating.

Q. Now listen, I'm quoting a Time magazine poll, and it said that most Americans, 56 percent, want a wall built between Mexico and America. My question is do you think if we did do that might we wind up displacing the nasty people that we don't want coming in onto the Canadian side and then as a contingency, should we also be looking at a wall between the Canadian side and America?

A. Yes. I believe that we should defend our borders, secure them, both north and south, we certainly would be only enticing people to do exactly what you say, to, well, think of it this way, we are only as strong as our weakest link. It makes no sense just to secure your southern border and leave your northern border wide open.

Q. I beginning to see what Colorado says about you're being absolutely unequivocal in your answers, and let me ask you along the same line, do you think Mr. Libby should be pardoned?

A: Yes. One thing, there was no underlying crime. But first you have got pardon two other guys - Ramos and Compean - two boarder patrol men who are serving 11 and 12 years respectively because one of them shot a drug dealer

who was coming in United States with 756 pounds of drugs the guy is now in the United States because we went down to Mexico to find him to bring him back to testify and gave him immunity and now he's suing the United States for \$5 million and the two border patrolmen are in jail.

Q. So let me give you a minute now. You are in a room full of undecided New Hampshire voters and this is your chance to tell them why they should vote for you.

A. I believe that among all the candidates running I offer you something that is unique and that is a consistent conservative record on every issue, whether it's life, whether it's guns, whether it's small government. I mean, I am the only one up there who voted against the "No Child Left Behind" act and a prescription drug act that was the largest increase in government since the creation of Medicare. I have a record that goes back 30 years to the Colorado legislature that can be traced. I didn't just decide on what I wanted to be, (fill in president of the United States) and then decide all the things I had to say and do and be in order to get there. I'm going to tell you exactly what I believe. I'm going to tell you exactly what I will do, and I'm the same guy today that I was 30 years ago when I went into the legislature, and I'd be the same guy if I was the president of the United States. That's what I can guarantee you and that's what I can tell you is unique among the folks that are seeking your vote.