



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Recaps A Year of Town Halls

Broadcast: December 18, 2015 • Duration: 3:29

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hi, Tom Emmer here. This was a busy and productive year for me and my staff. We settled into our offices on January 5th and got straight to work. If you've heard me speak before, I'm sure you've heard me talk about transparency and accountability. These are two things vital to our country and something I, like most Americans, demand of our government. I've introduced legislation which would allow for congressional oversight of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, co-sponsored legislation like the Freedom of Information Act, which increases public access to information, and spoke in support of the REINS Act, which ensures a congressional check on massive regulations. But legislating for an increase in transparency and accountability is not enough. Legislation should speak louder than words, which is why I told my staff from day one that we're going to be an office that lives and breathes transparency and accountability as well as accessibility. The main role of a congressman is service, constituent service. I truly believe that. This is something I campaigned on and something we have worked hard to implement in our office. Aside from having a great staff to help Minnesotans contacting us, I committed to be personally accessible to the people across the 6th District. We spent 2015 criss-crossing the district and the state to listen and learn from Minnesotans from all walks of life. To be honest, this is one of my favorite parts of the job, but it's also one of the most critical parts of the job as I'm here to work for you. But in order to do so, I have to hear from you. So in addition to meetings, tours, speaking events, and other activities throughout the district and here in Washington, we decided to make town halls a priority. Town halls allow for open and frank conversations where you can ask me questions, but more importantly, you can tell me what you're thinking. What legislation you like or dislike, what stances you want us to take on specific issues, and precisely how you would like us to improve our job performance. Traditional town halls were not quite enough for us. We held town halls in person, over the telephone, and by social media. In total, we held 14 town halls in the last 12 months. We also made sure to plan accordingly and were able to hold one in-person town hall in each of the seven counties we represent so that everyone in the 6th Congressional District would have the opportunity to speak with me personally and with our staff. From what I hear, a lot of elected officials don't like town halls anymore. I may be in the minority because I actually love them. They're the exact reason why I'm in office, to work with you and for you. I want to thank everyone who participated in one of our 2015 town halls and I look forward to more town halls next year. Visit emmer.house.gov to find information on town halls as they are announced. In the meantime, you can share your opinions or ask questions every day. Visit emmer.house.gov to find our contact information because we'd love to hear from you. Thanks again and we'll see you next year.

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

Source: (December 18, 2015)

Archived: February 06, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/OZTMNX6EBPo>



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