

Steyer: We Need to Revitalize and Empower Rural America

(Logan, IA, Jan. 2) Today presidential candidate for the Democratic nomination Tom Steyer will be traveling up Western Iowa to Logan, Manning, and Onawa, and hosting a town hall this evening in Sioux City. Steyer will be speaking alongside the former owners of West Street Market, the only grocery store in Manning, which closed due to financial strain after the Dollar General moved in. Food deserts are springing up all across rural America, and Tom's grassroots and community centered approach to policy will work to tackle these problems head on in partnership with the communities impacted.

Steyer and his wife and partner, Kat Taylor, have for over a decade been committed to ensuring the strength of rural communities. Kat Taylor said this on their work at [TomKat Ranch](#) in a [recent op-ed](#) in the Sioux City Journal:

"We need to recognize the innovation and leadership of farmers and ranchers across rural America. They are leading concerning responsible agriculture methods which sequester carbon naturally, restoring our soil with fertility... We need to stop blaming our climate crisis on farmers or ranchers and work to ensure they have the markets for climate services and sustainable food, technology driven tools, and partnerships to lead."

Previously while in Iowa, Steyer released his "[Partnerships with Rural Communities](#)" plan that was the product of a continual conversation with Iowans that Tom has been having since 2014. The plan is focused on building connectivity, investing in rural people, growing a just economy, and partnering to address our climate crisis. Former Ag Secretary and Lt. Governor Patty Judge said this about the plan:

"Rural America needs leaders in DC who have a record of success and proven commitment to their principles. Tom Steyer shows up when he says he will and dedicates his energy to causes he believes in. Steyer's rural plan puts people and communities over corporate profits, acknowledging our rights to healthcare and education; while investing in our agriculture economy. I'm glad to see his plan would partner with farmers and biofuel producers on climate change, and put a stop to needless small refinery waivers to companies as big as Exxon and Chevron."

Steyer will bring his experience with regenerative ag, rural economies, and global markets to the White House to do the following:

- Support American farmers and manufacturers through fair and open trade policies that identify and grow global markets while ensuring food security at home. These trade agreements must meet strong economic, labor, and environmental standards, while promoting and preserving American interests.
- Build upon the Made in Rural America Initiative to connect American farmers and businesspeople to global markets.

- Direct the Department of Justice to enforce antitrust law across sectors, including in the agricultural sector, to end practices that put family farmers, food security, workers, environmental quality, and resiliency at risk.
- Foster a culture of entrepreneurship by directing the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help rural small business owners, with a focus on supporting women, people of color, and entrepreneurs from low-income communities.

Press interested in learning more about Tom's plan to revitalize and support the rural economy should reach out to leah.haberman@tomsteyer.com