

Watkins holds town hall meetings

**(KNZA)--2nd District U.S. Congressman Steve Watkins has been busy since taking office in January.**

**The Kansas Republican hosted a town hall meeting in Hiawatha Monday morning.**

**Since taking office, Watkins said he has co-sponsored 177 pieces of legislation—more than any other Republican freshman in Congress. In addition, he says he has introduced 6 pieces of legislation, with one bill signed into law.**

**Watkins said he is the only freshman Republican on the whip team promoting the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA 2.0. He touted the agreement as a solution to Kansas farmers' trade woes. "This would pass if it went up to a vote right now. Nancy Pelosi has not brought it to a vote, but the good news we've learned recently is that [Pelosi] will likely bring it to a vote soon, so sometime in October. We're very pleased with that. I think it's going to be very good for our economy, very good for our growers and our manufacturers."**

**Watkins said he wasn't impressed with former Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe. "There just doesn't seem to be enough there. Kansans and Americans, by any respectable poll, are ready to move on."**

**However, Watkins said he's very concerned about the integrity of elections. "No one should meddle in our elections, and Russia has tried, and Russia, by the way, is not the only country who has tried. That's why I co-sponsored the HR3412. This is the Elections Security Assistance Act."**

**Watkins said he pushed for passage of House bills incentivizing banks to make low-interest loans to rural Americans and deferring college loans of physicians serving in rural communities.**

**Watkins serves on three committees—Education and Labor, Veterans Affairs and Foreign Affairs.**

**Watkins also held town hall meetings Monday in Holton, Seneca and Blue Rapids.**

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