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Subject: Lt. Gov. Gregg Focuses on Rural Communities

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Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg Focuses on Rural Communities in Iowa

Iowa Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg

**Excerpt from “Adam Gregg rides ‘rocket ship’ to Iowa lieutenant governorship,”
Cedar Rapids Gazette, February 8, 2018*

One of the first tasks with which [Gov. Kim] Reynolds has charged [Iowa Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg] is an initiative to help struggling rural Iowa communities. Reynolds laid out the initiative [in February] during her Condition of the State address.

Gregg said he has been meeting with community, business and organization leaders to fully grasp the issues facing Iowa’s small towns with the hopes of developing a way to provide new programs or streamline existing ones to help those small towns retain their residents.

Gregg said he wants to encourage business investment in rural Iowa, help those towns’ populations grow, and help foster more investment in high-speed internet access in those areas.

He acknowledged the challenge of combating a migration from rural to urban areas that is happening not only across Iowa but across the country. In Iowa from 2010 to 2016, the largest population growth happened in the most populous counties — Polk, Dallas, Story, Warren, Linn, Johnson, Scott, Jefferson and Dubuque — while 79 of the state’s 99 counties saw a decrease in population, according to the state’s data agency.

“There are definitely some economic and demographic trends and headwinds that underlie some of this. So that makes it challenging because there may be little that government can do about that,” Gregg said. “But that doesn’t mean

that rural Iowa isn't worth fighting for. I think it absolutely is. And it's worth continuing to find ways so there's prosperity there and opportunity to grow Iowa."

Read More: "Adam Gregg rides 'rocket ship' to Iowa lieutenant governorship," Cedar Rapids Gazette

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